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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Shutdown Ghost

Few memories haunt Republicans more deeply than the 1995-96 partial shutdown of the federal government.

Nation...Page 14



Libya's Turn

After anti-government unrest spread to the Libyan capital of Tripoli and protesters seized military bases and weapons Sunday.

World...Page 16



Rihanna Rocks

With a celebrity-studded crowd looking on, Rihanna rocked the halftime show at the NBA All-Star game on her 23rd birthday.

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Fernandez justifies 'changes' in students' grades. PAGE 2
Flores wants more support for cultural exchange programs. PAGE 3

Fitial, Kilili clash on delayed ARRA spending, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Sablan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan differ again over the CNMI's delayed spending of some \$77 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money. The ARRA marked its second year on Feb. 17.

Sablan said of the \$118 million in ARRA funding so far awarded to the CNMI either as contracts or grants, \$77 million has yet to be spent.

The federal tracking agency, www.recovery.gov, reports that \$118,066,900 has been awarded to the CNMI from Feb. 17, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2010.

Of the 58 grant projects being funded with ARRA in the CNMI, only five or 9 percent has so far been completed.

But the Fitial administration said the delay in spending ARRA money is

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Fitial

Worker groups' statements pour in for Senate public hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least four different groups of foreign workers and their supporters have so far made their positions known on the status of long-term nonresident workers in the CNMI, and all of them support "green card" or pathway to U.S. citizenship instead of merely extending the umbrella permits or a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

They said many nonresident workers

See WORKER on Page 4



SOLAR PANELS

A GPPC Inc. employee walks past solar panels being installed on the roof of the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center in Garapan yesterday afternoon. GPPC's Dennis Tupaz says their company bagged a \$711,034.84 contract from the U.S. National Parks Service to install the solar panels, which will make the facility a more energy efficient one by May.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

EPA urges CUC to identify funding for cleanup of Power Plant 3

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said the Commonwealth Utili-

ties Corp. needs to identify a funding source for the cleanup of CUC's Power Plant 3 which is located near the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien stat-

ed in a report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that CUC should proceed with site cleanup at Power Plant 3, which is also known as Isley Field Booster Station.

EPA approved in July 2010 CUC's submission of assessment work plan for Power Plant 3. Field work began in October 2010 and was completed in De-

See EPA on Page 4



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Local

Fernandez justifies 'changes' in students' grades

» Said no committee was formed by regents to probe alleged wrongdoings

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Dr. Carmen Fernandez justified changes she made in certain students' grades during her stint as president of the Northern Marianas College, based on the declaration she filed last week at the U.S. District Court.

In the document, she also disclosed that no investigative committee was ever formed by the then Board of Regents to look the allegations against her "wrongdoings."

Fernandez was suspended

and was later terminated in April 2010 from her position due to allegations that she changed the grades of certain students, which the board found illegal and in compliance with the college's policies and regulations.

Court records show that there were three instances that changing of grades to particular students occurred during Fernandez's term.

First was for a student in Spring 2004 when the student received a final semester grade of "A" and which was changed later to "B" by the said profes-

sor citing the non-completion of a semester project.

Fernandez said when this came to the student's attention, she first sought help from the responsible individuals at NMC to no avail. The student then appealed to the president's office after justifying she submitted the final semester project.

"After extensive discussions with the student wherein the student was able to prove that she did in fact finish the project, including reviewing her records as well as discussing the matter with the academic dean and

the dean of student services at the time, I authorized that the student's earlier grade to an 'A' be restored back to her as she had rightfully earned it. What the professor had done to this particular student was totally unacceptable," Fernandez told the court.

The next was the changing of a grade for a nursing student for Fall 2007 semester where a grievance was formally filed against an adjunct instructor at the nursing department. The grievance committee found that

See **FERNANDEZ** on Next Page



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

6th Saipan Marathon



Over 750 participants have registered for the **6th Saipan Marathon** on March 5, 2011. The annual signature event, organized by the **Marianas Visitors Authority**, includes a half-marathon and 10K and attracting a slew of media attention to this island resort destination.

For the first time, the Saipan Marathon has joined the prestigious **Earth Marathon** series, which has successfully negotiated with **Yomiuri Television** for a 60-minute special TV program about the marathon. A film crew of 20 people, including Earth Marathon entertainer and marathon participant **Kanpei Hazama**, shot on location in Saipan earlier this month. The program was scheduled to air last Saturday (Feb. 19) on Yomiuri TV with an approximate ad exposure value of \$6.3-million.

A number of other Japanese celebrities will come to Saipan in conjunction with the marathon.

In addition **Travel Run!**, the running-themed sister publication to travel guidebook and website **Globe Trotter**, is also sending journalists and will feature the marathon and the Northern Marianas on at least five pages of the guidebook. The estimated ad exposure value of the coverage \$50,000.



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Flores wants more support for cultural exchange programs

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores will ask the support of the Legislature to enhance cultural exchange programs between the island and Japan.

"I will ask the Legislature to provide funding for these cultural exchange programs

because whatever they give us will go back to the community," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Flores, expenses incurred in these cultural exchange programs will stimulate the local economy as program participants will be spending their money in businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and transportation.

US government wants to hold joint trial of couple who allegedly defrauded PH bank

The U.S. government has asked the federal court to conduct a joint trial of a couple who are indicted for their role in an alleged conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank of approximately \$109,855.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly R. McCallum moved the U.S. District Court for the NMI to consolidate the separate indictments against Haydn L. Villegas and Ana Maria Villadiego Villegas for the purpose of trial.

McCallum moved the court to order that the wire fraud charges against Ana Villegas in the superseding indictment, and the charge of the wire fraud conspiracy committed by the Villegas couple and others, as alleged in the indictment, be consolidated for use at that trial.

The prosecutor said Ana and Hadn Villegas are charged with offenses that are part of the same series of acts or transactions, in part, under color of their co-owned remittance company and bank accounts, and their joint bankruptcy action.

"Therefore, the couple could

have been charged in one indictment for wire-fraud and related charges involving victim Philippine National Bank: they should be tried jointly," she said.

McCallum said the counsel for Ana Villegas informed the court recently that his client does not object to the motion to join cases for trial.

McCallum said the counsel for Haydn Villegas, however, confirmed that his client opposes the motion.

According to the indictments, the scheme to defraud began in November 2004 when Haydn Villegas and Ana Maria V. Villegas, then co-owners of Philippine Express Remittance, started passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express.

PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At that time, Armilaine Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

In June 2010, Salamat pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud. She is currently awaiting her sentencing. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FERNANDEZ

From Page 2

there was discrepancy in the hiring of the said instructor for the nursing class.

"I subsequently found out that there were serious discrepancies in the hiring of the adjunct instructor. That is, he was not the adjunct instructor of record for the class, but rather, his wife was. Upon further investigation, I further found out that a scheme had been put together to allow the adjunct instructor to teach but his salary is paid to his wife," disclosed Fernandez, adding that the adjunct instructor was also never certified to teach the nursing class.

Fernandez said the granting of students one letter grade higher was among the three recommendations from the grievance committee. "Based on said recommendations, I decided to grant the whole class, not just the grieving students, one letter grade higher. The simple reason being, the problems uncovered relating to this specific nursing class was not limited to just the grieving students, they affected the whole class."

The other two committee recommendations would have required students either to retake

the course the following semester at no cost to them or retake the final exam. Fernandez said these recommendations would have, in effect, penalized the students at no fault to them.

The grade of a graduating student in Spring 2009 was also changed during Fernandez's term following the grievance committee's investigation. It was revealed that the student and his parents sought the president's intervention after a professor gave a failing grade to the student which might cause him not to graduate during the semester. After recalculation of the grades, his grade "C" was elevated to grade "B." The student graduated as cum laude in his class.

"At no time did I force, coerce, or pressure the professor to grant this male student a grade of 'B' in his class. In light of the foregoing, I again left instructions that each of the student's grades in the class be recalculated as well as that the professor involved be provided assistance in all respect to enable him to continue to teach at NMC," Fernandez's declaration stated.

Fernandez sued the board and four regents last year citing her termination as unlawful. The case is pending in court.

He said Japanese students who come to Saipan for the cultural exchange programs go shopping for gifts they will bring back home which is also another way of helping the local economy.

Unlike the millions of funding spent by Marianas Visitors Authority for marketing the CNMI to other countries, Flores said subsidizing these cultural exchange programs is better as the money will remain within the local govern-

ment's coffers.

"It's worth a try. It will be money well-spent because it's for the community," added Flores.

According to Flores, participants of cultural exchange programs belong to a segment of the island's tourists that are family oriented.

Flores, who recently came back from Japan for the Sanpo-en Cultural Exchange Program, said he met with officials of Kyoto, Nagano, and

15-year extension of public land lease in Lower Base sought

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are now reviewing a proposal to extend by 15 years a 25-year public land lease in Lower Base that will expire in September.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta submitted to the Legislature on Feb. 10 a request from JL Reyes Inc. to extend the lease on approximately 4,530 square meters of public land.

"The Department of Public Lands supports the extension of this land lease. But the final decision rests with the Legislature," Babauta said in a phone interview yesterday.

Babauta, a former House speaker, said the CNMI stands to benefit from the 15-year lease extension by way of gross receipt tax payments. The lessee has also maintained and used the property in its entirety instead of the property remaining idle.

The DPL secretary said the lessee, JL Reyes Inc., has paid \$37,439.15 since the execution of the land lease in 1986 to the present.

JL Reyes Inc. currently pays DPL \$5,720 annually for the lease.

Babauta said should the 15-year extension be approved, the annual rental will be \$4,720 for the first five years.

The subsequent annual lease rentals will be based on 8 percent of the fair market value of the property, which will be reappraised every five years.

Former public works secretary John S. Reyes, who is the owner of JL Reyes Inc., separately said yesterday that he hopes the Legislature will grant the 15-year extension request.

Under Article XI section 5(c) of the NMI Constitution, a 15-year extension of public land lease needs the approval of at least three-fourths of the members of the legislature.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) have yet to call for a joint session to tackle the land lease extension request.

Babauta said DPL has reviewed and supports JL Reyes Inc.'s request for a 15-year extension of the land lease agreement on Lot No. 027 E 02.

The lessee entered into a 25-year lease agreement with the Marianas Public Land Corp., now DPL, on March 26, 1986.

The initial purpose of the

Nan-tan cities to thank them for accommodating Saipan students as well as invite them to visit the island.

He said each city in Japan is provided funding for cultural exchange programs, allowing them to host students from Saipan.

Flores said the enthusiasm of the city officials to see more students from different grade levels and their parents participate in the program can be properly organized as a group tour.

Every student taking part in the program can share it with their family members and friends who may be encouraged to visit the islands themselves, he explained.

Flores said the Mayor's Office could work with different city mayors in Japan and Korea and arrange for at least one cultural exchange program with Saipan every month.

"I'd like to see more support for these cultural exchange programs," he added.

lease was to conduct the business of general contracting, construction, office, materials supply warehouse, and related activities. The lease expires in Sept. 26, 2011.

The lease agreement was amended on Aug. 23, 2006 to change the name of the lessee, John S. Reyes doing business as Rainbow Construction Co. to JL Reyes Inc.

Article 2 of the lease was also amended to reflect an alternative purpose for the use of the leasehold premises.

The new purpose of the lease allows the premises to be used by the lessee, except with the express written consent of DPL, only for office space, warehouse space, and staff housing for industrial park employees. Staff housing units are not to exceed 54 rooms.

Article 16 of the lease was also changed to record the new name of the lessee and mailing address.

Babauta said JL Reyes Inc. has maintained a good relationship with DPL as a lessee.

"Although lessee has breached the lease, the discrepancies were addressed and cured in a timely manner and were not material breaches which

would merit a termination of the lease," Babauta said in a letter to Manglona and Cabrera.

These breaches which have been resolved accordingly included: subleasing to certain entities without DPL's consent; non-submission of required documents specified in the lease; execution of documents such as mortgage and conveyance without DPL's consent; conducting activities outside of the purpose stated in the lease; and conducting construction and/or demolition for improvements that exceed a specified dollar amount in the lease without DPL's consent or written disapproval.

Babauta also said in November 2009, the CNMI Water Task Force, in conjunction with the Division of Procurement and Supply, awarded JL Reyes Inc. a bid to sublease office spaces to the CNMI Water Task Force.

That sublease was for one year, with an option to renew for an additional year.

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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Thursday and Friday, February 24 and 25, 2011 beginning at 9:30am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - February 4, 2011
- II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
- III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
 1. Investment Consultant Report
 - a. Asset Allocation
 - b. Flash Report
 - c. Advisor update
 - i. Houston Global
 - ii. Aureos
 - iii. Harbour Vest
 2. Loan Administrator Report
 3. Legal Counsel Report
 4. Board Consultant Report
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
 1. Web Hosting Proposal- selection
 2. Portfolio Monitoring Proposal - selection
 3. Local High Yield Proponent
 4. Local Investment Opportunities
- V COMMUNICATIONS**
- VI NEW BUSINESS**
 - FY '10 Audit Report - draft
 - MPLT 11-1 - Resolution on Marianas Credit
- VII MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

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Fitial leaves for Washington, DC today

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial leaves this morning for a one-week official trip to Washington, D.C., before going on a medical leave in California on March 2.

By way of ascension, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will be acting governor until Fitial returns to the CNMI.

Fitial will be accompanied by first

lady Josie Fitial, special assistant for management and budget Virginia Vil-lagomez, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

The governor will be attending the National Governors Association's Winter Meeting from Feb. 26 to 28.

Fitial said he is also set to meet with

the chiefs of three component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security—the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Demapan said yesterday that Fitial will meet with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano during the NGA meetings.

These meetings will be on labor

Diabetes coalition names presenters for 2nd diabetes forum

The second CNMI-Wide Diabetes Health Community Forum: Highway to Better Health scheduled next month has already identified some of its presenters.

Vynicia Seman, Education and Outreach Committee chair, disclosed that confirmed presenters are the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, Hardt Eye Clinic, Public School System, and nurse Gregoria F. Omar.

Seman said they are still accepting applications for those who want to put

up an exhibit during the forum.

The second CNMI-Wide Diabetes Health Community Forum: Highway to Better Health is set for March 5, from 8:30am to 3pm, at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria.

The forum targets residents in As Lito, San Vicente, Dandan, Koblerville, and San Antonio.

Organized by the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program of the Department of Public Health, and the

Ayuda Network, the forum aims to involve the “taro roots” in addressing the issue of diabetes in the Commonwealth through targeted social and behavioral strategies.

Seman said there will also be a health walk within the school grounds prior to the forum at 8am.

“Food will be served. However, we will ‘pre-portion’ the amount of foods as we aim to also encourage the community to eat healthy and wisely,” added Seman.

For more information, call Ayuda Network at 234-7469. *(Clarissa V. David)*

CLASH

From Page 1

mainly because of the “Buy America” waiver.

“Despite this obstacle, the CNMI has managed to expend \$34 million thus far as of the 4th quarter 1512 reports,” the Fitial administration said yesterday.

The “Buy America” provision of the ARRA mandates that no ARRA funds may be used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States.

“The Buy America waiver issues have accounted for a lot of the expenditure delays related to the ARRA funds. Until the waivers were secured, the project was at a standstill and thus drawdowns could not be made,” the Fitial administration said.

It said the CNMI, with its remote destination, does not have immediate access to the same companies and manufacturers that are available in the mainland.

“It is especially difficult as our federal counterparts did not account for these obstacles which resulted in a long drawn out process to get our waiver requests approved. To date, we have received waivers for our lighting retrofit project as well as the CUC turbocharger project, each of which took several months to receive final approval,” the administration said.

Fitial and Sablan's statements over ARRA spending came just a few days after the two also blamed each other for possible cuts in capital improvement project funds under President Barack Obama's proposed fiscal year 2012 budget.

Economic recovery

Sablan said with \$77 million still to be spent, ARRA will be helping the Northern Marianas weather the current recession and keep people employed for several more years.

He said just as important, the investments being made with ARRA funds including to the telecommunications system, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and schools—will be the basis for a stronger economy for many years to come.

“The Recovery Act was one of the first pieces of legislation I voted for as your representative in Congress; and

I continue to believe that this kind of stimulus spending is the right policy choice during an economic downturn,” Sablan said.

ARRA has so far created or preserved 358 jobs in the CNMI, including some 100 teacher jobs at the Public School System.

Clearing up misconceptions

The Office of the Governor and the CNMI ARRA Office issued a statement yesterday to clear up misconceptions that the general public may have regarding the timeframes involved with project completions and expenditures related to ARRA funds.

On the question, “Why has it taken so long for the projects to be completed,” the administration said “perhaps the most significant obstacle for the CNMI thus far in the execution of our ARRA funded projects has been the Buy America waiver.”

It said it is also important for the general public to keep in mind that these projects are large scale, and much of the issue with these projects is getting the materials to the island, as in the case with the CUC turbochargers.

Despite the obstacles, the administration said the process is working, as evidenced by the Cross-Island road project.

“This is a good indication that the funding is being spent; however, expansion and rebuilding of the roads simply cannot be completed in a matter of three to six months,” it said.

Other projects that are not easily visible to the general public but have already been completed, the administration said, include the lighting retrofits at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Commonwealth Health Center, and the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas building or the legislative building on Capitol Hill.

Air-conditioning retrofits at the Senate chamber and Guma Hustisia buildings are also ongoing with phase II, to begin on Tinian.

The new CUC turbochargers and PSS Green Energy materials have begun to arrive, with work to begin within the next couple of months.

The administration said the CNMI ARRA Office, the CNMI Department of Finance, and the CNMI Executive branch have gone through painstaking measures to ensure that all ARRA guidelines and protocols have been adhered to in the execution of these projects.

“In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy in a recent report praised the CNMI for its swift spending and quality assurance protocols,” it said.

Fred Camacho, CNMI ARRA communications/compliance director, said the ARRA Office continues to work closely with local agencies, leadership and federal counterparts “to ensure that we not only expend the funds but do so in a responsible manner displaying the CNMI's commitment to quality assurance.”

“Ultimately, the impression the CNMI leaves behind with the use of the ARRA funds will create a lasting legacy for all future federal funds sought after by the CNMI,” Camacho said.

CIP for government operations

Sablan said last week that the CNMI could lose all its annual Covenant funding because the money is not being spent quickly enough.

Obama's FY 2012 budget has a language allowing the Interior secretary to take away infrastructure money from any territory that is slow to spend.

The president's budget proposes that if “a territory has a substantial backlog of capital improvement program funds, the secretary may withhold or redistribute that territory's capital improvement funds for the current fiscal year among the other eligible recipient territories.”

A substantial backlog is defined as spending less than 50 cents of every \$1 appropriated.

Sablan said the CNMI is only spending 32 cents of every \$1 it gets.

In 2012, the CNMI is scheduled to get \$9.5 million, down from \$10 million in 2011 and \$11 million in 2010.

But Fitial, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last week, said he would request for an amendment to laws to allow the use of unspent CIP funds temporarily for the operations of the CNMI government.

Fitial said he is looking forward to the CNMI House and Senate's adoption House Joint Resolution 17-28, which the House and Senate are expected to adopt today.

HJR 17-28 asks Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to introduce legislation to amend existing statutes to allow the CNMI to use unexpended CIP funds temporarily for operations or to reinstate the CNMI's entitlement of the indefinite permanent appropriation for CIP funding “so as to allow our economy to grow and prosper during these trying times.”

and immigration matters. Among other things, Fitial wants to extend the CNMI-issued umbrella permits beyond the expiration date of November 2011, to allow nonresident workers to remain in the CNMI.

While in Washington, D.C., Fitial and the other governors will also have the chance to meet with President Barack Obama. Fitial will also be meeting with the Interagency Group on Insular Affairs.

Demapan said as of yesterday, Fitial's schedule is still being finalized.

But he said Fitial's meetings will start on Feb. 23 in Washington, D.C. and end on March 1.

EPA

From Page 1

ember 2010.

CUC contractor's assessment report, which was submitted to EPA, contained a cleanup action recommendation.

O'Brien said EPA has approved the assessment report and the contractor's recommendation for cleanup.

Power Plant 3 is no longer utilized as a power plant, but has been used for many years as a transformer oil storage area.

O'Brien said some of the transform-

Fitial will then have his medical leave starting on March 2 and will be going to Los Angeles, California for treatment. He said earlier he will have another spinal surgery.

Demapan said the estimated length of time that the governor will be on medical leave will be known “after initial consultation by his physician.”

The administration anticipates that Fitial will be back before the April 1 submission of the fiscal year 2012 budget to the Legislature.

“We anticipate that he will. However, it will depend on his medical evaluation,” Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

er oil which was stored at this facility contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a hazardous substance and probable human carcinogen.

He said EPA conducted a PCB cleanup at the Power Plant 3 facility in February 2010.

O'Brien said oil contamination at the facility was to be addressed by CUC.

EPA and CUC entered court-approved stipulations intended to resolve longstanding deficiencies relating to CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems, and oil storage, transportation, and disposal program.

WORKER

From Page 1

will be out of status after the expiration of the umbrella permits in November 2011.

But while the four groups want pathway to citizenship, they each have a different approach to opposing a Senate draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress allowing eligible long-term workers to apply for a still loosely defined CNMI-only permanent resident status in 2013.

So far, only the United Workers Movement-NMI led by its president Rabby Syed will hold a protest walk with placards, from Kilili Beach to the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Thursday afternoon.

The Dekada Movement led by Bonifacio Sagana, the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal led by its president Rene Reyes, and as of yesterday, the Unity Group of Foreign Workers led by Carlito J. Marquez, said they will not be joining UWM's planned protest march.

The three groups, however, said their members will be attending the public hearing at 6pm on Thursday.

Marquez issued yesterday a written testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, saying that the Unity Group of Foreign workers is “not giving up hope” on permanent resident status commonly known as “green card” for nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years at the signing of U.S. Public Law 110-229 in May 2008.

“FAS-like status to all qualified foreign workers five years after the signing of PL 110-229 will deliberately bring all foreign workers out of immigration status because of the expiration of umbrella permits come Nov. 28, 2011, meaning majority of foreign workers become illegals and are subject for deportations,” Marquez said in a two-page testimony to the Senate panel.

Marquez said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is auditing the books of thousands of employers suspected of relying on illegal labor to achieve an unfair advantage in the marketplace and lesser salaries. This,

however, could not be independently confirmed as of press time.

Sagana and Reyes, in separate interviews, said they do not agree that a protest walk at this time will make it more difficult to reach a compromise.

But they all said the final decision on improved immigration status rests with the U.S. Congress.

Syed, for his part, said yesterday all workers want a stable status “but most workers also hope for green cards and a pathway to citizenship as permanent status.”

He said UWM knows this because of the petition for green cards signed by over 7,000 people.

“Most workers hope that the U.S. Congress will act quickly because the conditions for workers are deteriorating. As the economy has failed, more workers are being cheated of wages,” Syed said.

He said UWM will go on with their march.

“Why march? The United Workers Movement holds regular rallies, meetings, forums, and marches to keep the issue in the forefront in Washington, D.C.,” he said in a statement.

He said UWM wants to highlight that the Senate draft report “dismissed the suffering and abuses that thousands of us have felt in the CNMI.”

“Thousands of workers without jobs hang on because they are owed money. The march is a march to protest the denial of our suffering and the fact that there are millions of dollars in back wages owed to cheated workers,” Syed added.

He reiterated that UWM continues to push for green cards and pathway to citizenship.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the FRIA Committee, invites community members to attend the public hearing on Saipan on Thursday and on Tinian on Friday.

He said the Senate will finalize its recommendation to the U.S. Congress after they're done with the public hearings.

Under the Senate's draft proposal, only nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 will be eligible to apply for a FAS-like status in 2013.

Ex-cop in 'ice' trafficking case released pending sentencing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has allowed the temporary release of for-

mer police officer Florencio Q. Richards pending his sentencing for his conviction to "ice" trafficking.

U.S. District Court for the

NMI designated judge Marilyn Huff on Thursday granted the agreement between the U.S. government and Richards for his release pending the May 17,

2011 sentencing.

Huff placed Richards under home detention or in the custody of his mother and or his common-law wife.

The judge prohibited the former police officer from associating with or allowing any person engaged in criminal activity or actively using illegal drugs at his residence or his parent's house.

Among other requirements is placing the defendant on radio frequency location monitoring.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto and Richards' counsel, Michael N. Evangelista filed the stipulation to modify the bail for his release.

Richards pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute .094 net weight of "ice," distribution of .094 grams net weight of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

As part of the plea agree-

ment, the U.S. government will move the court to dismiss carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

The parties agree that the sentencing guidelines range is 21 to 27 months in jail after reduction for acceptance of the defendant's responsibility.

According to the indictment, Richards and others conspired sometime in July 2010 to July 15, 2010 to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

The total amount of "ice" which was distributed by the unindicted co-conspirator with Richards' assistance on July 15, 2010, was less than .25 grams net weight, according to the plea agreement.

Close to 50 take part in Goodwill Trash-athon



By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly 50 volunteers participated in the first Goodwill Trash-athon organized by the Airport/Seaport Activity Committee last Feb. 18.

Volunteers, majority of whom are airport operators and stakeholders, picked up trash from the airport's bus parking lot to the Commonwealth Ports Authority field up to the international airport signage along Airport Road.

Ports Police Chief Jordan Lee I. Kosam thanked all the stakeholders for making the event a success.

"The bottom line is tourism is really everybody's business. It's important that we put some time to help in causes that preserve and maintain our islands so that tourists will see how beautiful our home is," Kosam told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kosam disclosed that ASAC will make the trash-athon a monthly beautification project,

with the next one to be held in the seaport area.

"We encourage everybody to come out, have fun and exercise while maintaining our immediate vicinity," said the Ports Police chief.

Kosam, who also chairs the 2011 Airport-Seaport Goodwill Games Committee, said that Friday's activity was only the first of numerous events lined up this year right before the annual goodwill games in September.

"The goodwill games aim to promote friendship and alliance among airport and seaport stakeholders," he said.

According to Kosam, this year's Airport-Seaport Goodwill Games also commemorates the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks where thousands of Americans lost their lives in 2001.

Kosam said that the next event for the committee is their participation in the golf tournament organized by the Transportation

Security Administration to raise funds in support of the Marianas March Against Cancer in May.

He said committee members will take part in the tournament by volunteering manpower for the event.

Volunteers for the Airport/Seaport Goodwill Trash-athon pose for a group photo by the Saipan International Airport Signage along Airport Road after their activity on Friday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

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'Schools should be given authority to decide on own fundraisers'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison wants schools to retain the authority to decide on its fundraisers.

"In my opinion, the responsibility to be able to run the operation in school falls upon the principal and as such, the principal would benefit from being given the authority to make decision that they need to make at the school level such as when and when not to conduct fundraisers and who will organize it," Garrison told *Saipan Tribune*.

Beginning this year, the Public School System ordered a stop to all school-organized fundraisers in and outside school campuses and gave full authorization to the PT-SAs to spearhead all fundraising campaigns only for specific and approved projects by the system.

At the same time, a full accounting and tracking of all schools' non-appropriated funds are now being conducted by PSS to make sure that administrators and PTSA are doing things right.

Non-appropriated funds refer to the monies received by schools outside of the budget they get from the local appropriation. These include educational tax credits, donations, and fundraising funds.

Garrison described PTA's fundraising activities as "part-time fundraisers" as compared to school-organized events that can be conducted anytime they deem it necessary.

"The impact of no fundraising is crippling the school. For me, PTA is a part-time fundraising opportunity while school is a full-time if given those oppor-

tunities," he said.

The principal added that members of PTAs have their own separate responsibilities to their families, have jobs to fulfill. "But in school, we can do it [fundraisers] everyday if we have that ability."

Unlike other public schools, MHS has a parents' council. But majority of fundraisers are organized by school clubs and organizations in different events.

Last Thursday, MHS students were given permission by the school leadership to conduct their own fundraisers on campus during the traditional celebration of cultural exchange day with the Japanese visitors.

"I called the commissioner and the associate commissioner and we were given permission to these fundraisers. But it was emphasized that it's only for today's celebration just for the 25th anniversary of the Seisa Gakuen program," the principal said.

Garrison admitted that in "today's educational environment, without additional cash assistance at the school level for day-to-day operation...you will have some critical failures."

Although he acknowledged the huge help from the educational tax credit donations from private businesses, the principal said certain "cash" is needed at the school level for students' immediate needs.

For many years, different public schools have been conducting fundraisers for specific projects and purposes such as class educational trips, improvement plans for their school, among others. These fundraisers are mostly done through selling snacks inside the campus.

PSS earlier admitted that due to these fundraising practices, a lot of students were provided non-nutritious food inside the campus, which are not part of PSS' healthy and wellness program. It was also cited as among the concerns of the federal granting agency that provides PSS \$9 million yearly for school breakfast and lunch program.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas High School students held a fundraiser during Thursday's Cultural Exchange Day. Beginning this school year, the Public School System has only authorized parents teachers school associations to spearhead fundraising campaigns.

Benedetto: Questioned FBI lab reports not helpful to former detention guard

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's DNA lab reports that were questioned by former detention guard Tyron Farley Reyes Fital though perhaps unhelpful to the U.S. government, are not however, in any way exculpatory or helpful to his defense, according to a federal prosecutor.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said the first FBI lab report discussed by defendant Fital mentions semen discovered on a victim's panties and jeans.

Fital mistakenly cites a lab report in another case, said Benedetto in the U.S. government's opposition to the defendant's motion for pre-trial release.

The prosecutor said there was no semen recovered from any victim in the case against Fital, and it follows that the Oct. 19, 2010 FBI lab result cited by the defendant cannot be considered new evidence in support of his newest request for bail.

With respect to the second FBI lab report, Benedetto said it concerns a hair sample that was recovered from the pickup truck Fital is alleged to have borrowed and used to have sex with the then 13-year-old girl at Coral Ocean Point.

Benedetto said microscopic analysis of the head hair by the FBI's trace evidence unit found the hair to be consistent with head hair from the victim, so it was sent off for mitochondrial DNA analysis, which subsequently revealed the hair did not come from the victim or from the defendant.

"Showing that the hair did not come from the victim is of little or no value to the defendant," the prosecutor said.

Benedetto pointed out that since the pickup truck was borrowed it is far more likely that the head hair came from the normal and regular occupants of the truck such as the owner or a family member, rather than Fital, who only used it occasionally.

In addition, Benedetto said, the truck was searched and the hair was recovered on or about June 11, 2010, a month or more after the defendant's sexual encounter with the victim.

"Head hairs fall out and are replaced by the body on a regular basis, so it was a long shot that a single head hair recovered from the truck may have been the victim's," he said.

Benedetto said it is anyone's guess how many potential persons may have been in the truck in the months prior to its search, any one of whom may have been the source of the

hair in question.

Benedetto said the limited evidentiary value of a single head hair that does not belong to the victim is apparent when one considers the elements of the charge of enticement of a minor.

In order to prove enticement, he said, the government needs only to show that Fital used "a facility and means of interstate and foreign commerce, "e.g. a telephone, to "persuade, induce, or entice" a 13-year-old girl to meet with him for the purpose of illicit sexual contact.

Benedetto said the government does not have to show that Fital actually met her or that he sexually abused her.

"Thus, even assuming the reports contain 'new' information, it does not undermine the strength of the government's case," he said.

The lawyer said since Fital has presented no evidence material to his dangerousness that was not known to him at the time of his first two detention hearings, the court should deny the defendant's fourth motion to release on procedural grounds, as did a previous judge.

Last Thursday, the federal court denied Fital's fourth motion to be released. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Marilyn L. Huff ruled that the FBI's DNA lab analysis of samples does not change the court's concern about Fital's threats to the alleged minor victims in this case.

Huff said her findings are based on the previous testimony of an FBI agent concerning the alleged danger to certain persons and the community and the representation to the court concerning Fital's recorded statements threatening a witness.

In Fital's latest motion for release, defense attorney Joseph Norita Camacho cited that the FBI's DNA test on the second batch of samples in connection with the case against Fital, also reached with a questionable conclusion.

Camacho said with respect to the second batch, the FBI laboratory concluded that Fital and the alleged victim can be excluded as being the source of the hair obtained from Fital's vehicle.

Camacho said to booster its case, the U.S. government on Dec. 22, 2010 obtained a warrant to obtain pubic hair from Fital.

Camacho noted that the FBI's DNA test on the first batch of samples also reached with "no conclusion."

The indictment charged the 25-year-old Fital with deprivation of rights under color of law and enticement of a minor for allegedly forcing three female wards to engage in sex acts.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
CALLER BOX 10007, SPRINGS PLAZA, PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN MP, 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
February 18, 2011

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. JANG DU YOUN	01/21/2011 SSm-2011-X-007	3-STORY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING	SAN ROQUE	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
2. LAWRENCE FLEMING	01/28/2011 SSm-2011-X-008	MICRO BEACH BAR & GRILL	MICRO BEACH	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (01/17/11)*
3. SAIPAN SEA VENTURES INC.	02/02/2011 SPIm-2011-X-009	DRYDOCK	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (02/08/11)*
4. YM MICRONESIA CRUISE	02/14/2011 SSm-2011-X-010	FILMING	SAIPAN, TINIAN & ROTA	SHORELINE AND PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (02/15/11)*
5. DR. RUSSELL E. BRAINARD	02/07/2011 CNMILRm-2011-X-011	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	CNMI	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REIEW*
6. P & A CORP. CORPORATION	02/24/10 SMS-96-X-20 (2011 AMENDMENT)	COMMERCIAL OPERATION	SAN ANTONIO FORMER WINNERS GARMENT FACTORY	MAJOR SITING	UNDER REVIEW*
7. GOOD DAY COORDINATING	02/15/2011 SSm-2011-X-012	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (02/17/2011)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Buddy Zamo tops 'Who's the Alpha Dog Bully Show'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Buddy Zamo outshone other American Bullies on island after bagging the Best in Show award during the inaugural "Who's the Alpha Dog Bully Show" organized by Marianas Pitbull Alliance and Alpha Dog Productions last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park.

After winning the Standard 9 to 12 months class, Buddy Zamo qualified for the Best in Show category where he bested five other Bullies that won under different categories.

Marianas Pitbull Alliance president Vinson F. Sablan, Buddy Zamo's owner, said he was very proud of his dog's victory.

"He will go down in the history as the first dog to have won the Best in Show. That's awesome," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* after the show.

Sablan disclosed that he bought the American Bully, which turns 1 year on Feb. 21, for his daughter, 2010 Liberation Queen Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Sablan.

"I like American Bullies for their temperament and loyalty. They also have good showmanship," he said when asked why he chose this particular breed which was created in 1990 and formally recognized in 2004 following the establishment of the official registry worldwide for the American Bully, the American Bully Kennel Club.

Tax changes topic in SHRM meeting Thursday

Tax changes will be the topic in the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's February general membership set this Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, from 11:30am to 1:30pm Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

"Tax Changes That Affect Employers & Employees" will be presented by David J. Burger, CPA, of Burger and Comer, P.C.

The lunch meeting and presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about the important federal tax changes that took effect

Deadline for submission of Tier II forms on March 1

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds facilities in Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa of the March 1 deadline regarding annual submission of Tier II inventory reporting forms for storage of hazardous chemicals during calendar year 2010 subject to Section 312 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

The Tier II reports need to be



Vinson Sablan, Marianas Pitbull Alliance president, poses with his winning dog Buddy Zamo who bagged the Best in Show category in the first Bully show on island sanctioned by the American Bully Kennel Club last Saturday.



Marianas Pitbull Alliance president Vinson Sablan, right, holds his winning dog Buddy Zamo as he poses with his family and American Bully Kennel Club representative Randy Haina after the "Who's the Alpha Dog Bully Show" at the Garapan Central Park on Feb. 19.

According to Sablan, people often have the wrong idea about American Bullies and related

breeds such as Bull Terriers, Pitbulls, and Bulldogs.

"They're actually very

friendly dogs. My daughters grew up with Buddy Zamo and they even sleep with him," he said.

About 250 community members watched the first Bully show on island where ABKC's Randy Haina of Hawaii served as a judge.

Haina said that the strong support of the community for last Saturday's dog show will attest that all the stereotyping against



Vinson Sablan and daughter Peachy Sablan hold their winning dog Buddy Zamo after the "Who's the Alpha Dog Bully Show" show at the Garapan Central Park on Feb. 19.

Bullies is not true.

"These dogs are well socialized. They were brought here for competition and companionship. These dogs are treated like family members by their owners," he explained.

Haina, who said that American Bullies are a promising breed for dog owners in the CNMI, added that the first Bully show brought fun and enjoyment for the community.

"Win or lose, they're all en-

joying themselves. The support is really strong out here. I'm very, very happy with what I've seen," added Haina.

With the success of the show, Sablan said they plan to organize Bully shows twice a year, with the next one tentatively slated for October.

"The interest is really there. It's all about the dogs. Spend time with your dog. Treat them well, like family," he added.

3rd Annual A Walk to Remember

in honor of
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John
Pangelinan

*JP Center to Susupe Beach Park
February 26, 2011*

*Donation of \$5 includes free t-shirt
Proceeds will benefit the March Against Cancer 2011.*

- Registration is at 5:00 am
- Walk begins immediately upon registration
- Shuttle bus will be provided to return to Garapan
- Refreshments and entertainment provided at the park
- Two water stations along the route

To register in advance please call 233-8080
or email becky_tenorio@tanholdings.com

Landowner sued for allegedly defrauding businessman

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman has filed a lawsuit in federal court against a landowner who allegedly defrauded him by making him remodel a bakery and restaurant in exchange for a lease of property that she actually had already leased to another investor.

Ting Jian Tang, also known as Kevin Tang, sued Ignatia C. Aldan for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, unlawful conversion, and fraud.

Tang, a Chinese national, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Aldan to pay him in unspecified amount of damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments yesterday from Aldan.

Attorney Michael W. Dotts, counsel for Tang, stated in the complaint that in March 2009, Aldan approached Tang and requested an emergency loan so she could cover her payroll.

Dotts said, that on March 13, 2009 Tang loaned \$4,000 to Aldan.

After a few days, Tang, through a corporation he owned, proposed to perform the desired renovation and remodeling work for \$98,675 to a business that Aldan was involved with known as "Mary's Bakery."

Dotts said Aldan advised that she could not afford to pay \$98,675 for the work and instead offered to lease Tang a property in exchange for the renovation and remodeling work.

On April 24, 2009, Tang and Aldan entered into a memorandum of understanding.

Under the MOU, Dotts said, Aldan conditionally agreed to lease her property to Tang for 55 years in exchange for the proposed \$98,675 worth of renovation and remodeling work to Mary's Bakery, plus an additional \$10,000 cash to be paid by Tang.

Further, Tang under the terms of the MOU would start paying \$1,000 per month, beginning in 10 years, as rent for the property.

Dotts said the property at the time the MOU was signed was subject to an encumbrance as it was under lease to Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc.

However, the lawyer said, Aldan represented to Tang that MGM was behind in lease payments and that she agreed to terminate the lease to MGM.

Dotts said Tang paid the \$10,000 to defendant and the \$4,000 loaned to Aldan was applied to the \$10,000 owed under the MOU.

Tang then paid \$500 to the defendant on April 28, 2009, then \$2,000 on May 8, 2009, and \$3,500 more on May 13, 2009.

Tang renovated and remodeled Mary's Bakery and provided furnishings worth \$98,657 in accordance with the MOU.

On July 17, 2009, Dotts said, plaintiff substantially completed the work on Mary's Bakery, then applied for the occupancy certification from the Department of Public Works.

On Aug. 17, 2009, Tang finally obtained a certificate of occupancy evidencing that the work to Mary's Bakery had been inspected by DPW and approved.

On Aug. 18, 2009, Tang delivered a copy of the certificate of occupancy to Aldan together with all the keys to Mary's Bakery, and advised Aldan that the work was completed.

Dotts said the defendant inspected the work and then requested additional work not covered in the agreement between the parties.

Aldan requested a modification to the sewer connection. Tang agreed to provide the manpower for the additional work.

Aldan allegedly agreed to obtain all necessary permits and designated her sister to assist with obtaining the permit.

Dotts said neither Aldan nor her sister obtained the permits to allow for the modification to the sewer system.

Unknown to Tang, Dotts said, Aldan had leased the property to Lee Kwang Suk on June 19, 2009.

In late September 2009, the lawyer said, his client learned of the lease of the property to Suk when plaintiff began to move his belongings onto the property.

Individuals who identified themselves as employees of Suk accused Tang of trespassing.

Plaintiff went to the Recorder's Office and obtained a copy of the lease from defendant to Suk and then realized what defendant had done.

Dotts alleged that Aldan re-

ceived rent from Suk for the property beginning on June 19, 2009.

The lawyer said Aldan took no action to terminate the lease to MGM until sometime in late 2010 or only after Tang had discovered the fraud and threatened to sue.

"When Aldan finally took action to terminate the MGM lease, the property was already under lease to Lee Kwang Suk," he said.

Defendant, Dotts said, breached the MOU when she leased the property to Suk.

Tang demanded return of the \$10,000 and an additional \$98,675 to cover the costs of work performed at Mary's Bakery that defendant has wrongfully retained.

"Defendant has failed and refused to return any money to plaintiff. Defendant had no intention of leasing the property to Tang at the time defendant signed the MOU," Dotts said.

Aldan, according to Dotts, intended instead to trick plaintiff out of money and work.

Following defendant's receipt of the keys to Mary's Bakery on Aug. 18, 2009, Dotts said, defendant purposely and intentionally delayed applying for the permit to allow for the connection of Mary's Bakery to the sewer.

"Defendant did this so that plaintiff would not be able to complete the work and so that defendant could continue to collect rent from Lee Kwang Suk and not have to deliver the property to plaintiff," the lawyer pointed out.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 22, 1999

Cing asks US lawmakers to block funds cut

Tinian Sen. David Cing prodded members of the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a measure that will waive the matching requirement for federal funds under the capital improvement projects, saying current White House's proposal to cut the assistance will hamper development here. "I urge you to immediately enact legislation waiving the matching requirement now imposed on us in order to qualify for any CIP federal funds," he said in a speech Friday during the visit to Tinian of key House Resources Committee members and staffers. Committee chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) failed to join the delegation on its tour of Tinian as part of their three-day visit to the CNMI. The congressional team left Saturday for the Marshall Islands to continue its tour of Micronesian region.

Bill provides compensation, repatriation costs for workers

An administration-sponsored legislation will seek compensation of up to \$3,000 in unpaid wages and repatriation cost for foreign workers with pending monetary awards against their bankrupt employers following an agreement between the CNMI and U.S. legislators. The House of the Representatives and the Senate held a back-to-back emergency session on Friday to vote on the measure in a move they said was recommended by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and members of the House Resources Committee who visited the CNMI last week. "We were reminded that there is still a situation and we wanted to show our cooperation with this delegation," said House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, author of the bill.

Feb. 22, 2000

Reyes: Close Manila office to fund scholarship

Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes has renewed calls for the closure of the Commonwealth's Manila Liaison Office to increase government funding on law-mandated scholarships. The CNMI government stands to save close to \$100,000 in rental and personnel wage expenses from the proposed closure of the Manila Liaison Office which, Mr. Reyes said, can be reprogrammed to fund scholarship programs for local college students. The senator said savings from the closure of the liaison office in the Philippine capital may also be used to finance the operation of the Northern Marianas College's own Small Business Development Center.

SBA to sign pact on SBDC transfer to CDA next month

An agreement which will clear the road for the final transfer of the federally-funded Small Business Development Center from the Northern Marianas College to the Commonwealth Development Authority is expected to be signed next month. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the Small Business Administration and CDA are already finalizing discussions on some provisions contained in the transfer agreement which will be signed by middle of March. Mr. Tenorio said SBDC equipment, which are currently housed inside the facility within the NMC campus, will be transported to the CDA office in Gualo Rai by end of this month.

Feb. 22, 2001

PACA sharpens autism focus

Members of the Parents Association for Children with Autism are geared up for this Saturday's workshop on autism at the Joeten Kiyu Conference Room, starting at 8:00am and concluding at 12:00 noon. Building on the January symposium when more than 50 participants heard presentations on the nature of autism and the state of PSS educational response, this Saturday's workshop will attempt to clarify the challenges facing parents and care providers, and what practical proposals can be identified to deal with those challenges. PACA President Frank D. Cabrera said policy makers and program designers are invited to the workshop so that the dialogue with parents and care providers can begin.

Airport improvements to buoy NMI economy

Major airport improvements are anticipated to drum up business activities in the Northern Marianas after the Federal Aviation Administration sealed its approval for a \$10.7 million grant to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The newest FAA grant will be tapped to finance new and ongoing airport improvement projects on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed the \$10.7 million financial assistance will cover almost 90 percent of each airport improvements projects currently being undertaken by CPA.

Rota to host 1st Sweet Potato Festival

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Rota Mayor's Office is prepping up to host the island's inaugural Sweet Potato Festival scheduled on March 15 to 18 at the Metkaon Luta Ground in Sinapalo Village.

Special assistant for administration Efrain Atalig disclosed that the festival is a pet project of Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and will be a collaboration with the Rota Marketing Cooperative Association, Women in Action Association, Rota legislative delegation, and the 13th Rota Municipal Council.

"If there's anything that we can promote on the island, it's our most popular crop on Rota which is the sweet potato," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune*.

Atalig said the annual festival will kick off with an opening ceremony on the first day followed by Sweet Potato Dance Competitio, Sweet Potato Wine Making Workshop, and Use of Sweet Potato Forage Workshop.

On the second day, the festival will present workshops on pest management as well as harvesting, handling and marketing sweet potatoes.

The last two days will fea-

ture demonstrations on various ways of sweet potato preparation and other sweet potato contests, with island-style entertainment and booths throughout the festival.

According to Atalig, all workshops will be conducted by the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services.

Aside from sweet potatoes, Atalig said other root crops will also be available during the festival.

Following the inaugural festival is the annual tradition of

celebrating the San Isidro Fiesta, the patron saint of farmers and the Sinapalo Village.

Atalig said Mendiola's idea was to help the local farmers by taking advantage of the fiesta mood on the island.

"We're hoping that doing this kind of festivities will spur economic activity on Rota, resulting to better marketing exposure and more income for the farmers and the community," he added.

Since the local government is working on a tight budget, Atalig said local funding will

be "very minimal."

Most of the resources, Atalig said, will come from the farmers, private companies, and individuals.

Atalig disclosed that they will also be working on getting special rates on airfare going to Rota for the festival.

"Transportation is a big challenge for the success of this festival. It's critical that we get the support of airline companies," he explained.

Atalig encouraged residents from all neighboring islands to take part in Rota's 1st Sweet Potato Festival and enjoy the activities they have lined up.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Support meeting for cancer survivors, caregivers tomorrow

All cancer survivors, their family members, and other caregivers are invited to the next monthly support meeting tomorrow, Feb. 23, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Meeting Room, starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting will begin with a simple survey to identify topics of interest for future educational presentations, ways to improve monthly support meetings, and any unmet support needs, and will be followed by conversations in two

groups: survivors and caregivers. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

NMTI topic in tomorrow's John Gonzales Live

Northern Marianas Trades Institute will be the topic on *John Gonzales Live* this Wednesday with the institute's president and founder Tony Pellegrino and its education director Vic S. Cepeda serving as guests. *John Gonzales Live* airs Wednesday

and rebroadcasts on Sunday and Monday all from 7pm to 8 pm on KSPN Ch. 2 The show also rebroadcasts worldwide on the web to global internet radio listening audience on Betel Nut Radio (www.betelnutraudio.com) on Wed, Feb. 23, 2011 at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011 at 12 noon Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam). Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzales@pticom.com). (PR)

Guam bar owner found guilty for sex trafficking

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An owner of bar in Guam was found guilty of sex trafficking, and coercion and enticement for prostitution related to a scheme to force young women and one juvenile girl into prostitution, the Department of Justice announced Thursday. The jury in Guam found Song Ja Cha, 69, guilty on all 20 counts of an indictment returned on July 23, 2008. The trial lasted eight days.

According to court documents, from 2004 through January 2008, Cha and others in the conspiracy recruited and enticed some nine victims to come to Guam from the island of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia. The victims were largely poor, young, and uneducated. Cha lured the young women and one 16-year-old girl to Guam by promising them employment in a restaurant or store. In actuality, Cha was the proprietor of Blue House Lounge, a bar that has about six VIP rooms offering commercial sex.

According to evidence presented in court, Cha and her co-conspirators compelled the victims to work in the VIP rooms for 12 to 14 hours a day for the financial benefit of the conspiracy. Upon the victims' arrival to the Blue House Lounge, Cha stripped the young women of their passports, clothing and identities. Cha then used a variety of means to compel the victims to engage in prostitution, including physical assaults, threats of arrest, manipulation

of debt, withholding food, and restricted access to the outside world. The victims testified that they were terrified of Cha and her co-conspirators, and that Cha used the fact that police officers frequented the lounge to make the victims believe that she was "connected" and could have them arrested and jailed.

"The sexual exploitation of vulnerable individuals is an affront to fundamental rights and will not be tolerated in our country. The defendant preyed on the hopes and dreams of these young victims, forcing them into a life of prostitution," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "The Department of Justice is committed to vigorously prosecuting the trafficking of human beings to uphold the rights of those held in modern-day slavery, whether for labor or for sexual exploitation."

"Human traffickers trick, lie, and coerce young women with a promise of work in a legitimate job," said Alicia Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. "In reality, these young women lose their freedom and are horribly demeaned by the sexual acts that they are forced to perform. Cha preyed on vulnerable victims and used threats and abuse to force them into prostitution. The jury's verdict makes clear that sex trafficking schemes will not be tolerated. We will continue to find

traffickers and hold them accountable for their crimes."

Cha faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. Sentencing has been set for May 18, 2011.

The Department of Justice

has identified human trafficking prosecutions such as this one as a top priority.

This case was investigated by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Guam Police Department.

This case was prosecuted by trial attorneys Jared Fishman and Shan Patel of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division Criminal Section with assistance from assistant U.S. attorney Rosetta San Nicolas and

the U.S. Attorney's Office for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

To report trafficking crimes, call the Department of Homeland Security Tip Line at 1-866-347-2423. (DOJ)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Bordallo with Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina, Dr. Karen Guice, and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Robert Gordon at a Congressional Military Family Caucus meeting.

Bordallo attends 1st meeting of Congressional Military Family Caucus

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week attended a meeting of the Congressional Military Family Caucus to discuss the needs and challenges affecting spouses and children of our nation's servicemembers.

They were addressed by the Honorable Robert L. Gordon, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, and Dr. Karen Guice, Executive Director of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, who presented attend-

ees with an outline of the programs currently in place to support military families and well as the continued need for legislative support.

Also in attendance were Congresswoman and co-chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington, Congressman and co-chair Sanford Bishop of Georgia, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas, Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina, as well as Congressional staff and concerned military family members.

The Congressional Military Family Caucus is

comprised of Members of Congress with a particular interest in advancing the needs of family members of the uniformed services. The Caucus seeks to educate other Members and Congressional staff of the resources available to military families and to develop legislation to support military families. Its mission is to make certain that military family issues and concerns are properly identified, addressed, and resolved to ensure that military families receive proper care.

"Military families play

an important role in supporting the mission of our nation's servicemembers," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "Many of the military families on Guam have had to endure multiple deployments over the course of the current conflicts. As a nation we must ensure that we provide strong support systems for these families especially for the families of National Guardsmen. This Caucus will address key issues affecting military families as a priority of the 112th Congress." (PR)

'Eat Right with Color' is the theme for Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month, an annual nutrition education campaign sponsored by the American Dietetic Association to promote informed food choices and sound eating and physical activity habits.

This year's theme for National Nutrition Month is Eat Right with Color, and the CNMI Nutrition Month Committee has planned a full slate of activities for the entire community to enjoy, including an Eat Right with Color-Healthy Lunches promotion with local restaurants and catering services.

The Healthy Lunches promotion seeks to encourage local restaurants and catering services to prepare healthy and colorful lunch options, and to educate the community about the variety of fruits and vegetables that can add flavor, color, and nourishment to their plates.

Participating restaurants and catering services will have their healthy lunches highlighted in a series of nutrition education columns that will be published in the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety*, as well as online at the Commonwealth Cancer Association's website and Facebook page. These delicious and

healthy lunches will feature at least three different fruits/vegetables, at least one of which shall come from a local source; and whole grains or starchy vegetables such as sweet potatoes, taro, or tapioca. Low-salt and low-sugar meals are also encouraged; the use of monosodium glutamate (MSG) is discouraged.

Please help spread the word about the Eat Right with Color-Healthy Lunches promotion to all your favorite restaurants and catering services (including hot lunch delivery services, food carts, etc) by sharing with them the attached Invitation and Application Form.

In addition to the Healthy Lunch promotion, the Eat Right with Color program will include a recipe contest and cook-off for students, as well as a full nutrition education media campaign. Stay tuned for more details!

For more information about the Eat Right with Color campaign, contact Nutrition Month chair Hee Jae Lee at 237-3050, or email heejae.lee@psscnmi.org. For more information about National Nutrition Month, visit www.eatright.org. (PR)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our wonderful daughter Allia Raine Pillarina, who's celebrating her birthday today. As you grow up, may the good Lord continue to bless you and guide you. Your family is always here to support you. We love you always! Greetings from Dad, Mom, and sister Traci. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy second birthday to our baby girl Danielle Vicenta Attao Babauta. With lots of love, hugs, and kisses from Mommy, Daddy, and Princess. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Democracy by Internet

Secretary of State Clinton has committed the United States anew to promoting the online exchange of ideas in other countries.

After the revolution in Egypt, it has become a truism that the Internet can foster dissent and political freedom. But in a thoughtful speech this week, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton put that observation in perspective and committed the United States anew to promoting the online exchange of ideas in other countries.

Clinton's speech was vague in places, and there is a tension between her emphasis on the importance of protecting the privacy of everything from business documents to journalists' notes and efforts by the U.S. government to combat online security threats. Overall, however, it was an impressive attempt to advance an international conversation about how best to bring a commitment to democracy worldwide into an age in which the Internet is "town square, classroom, marketplace, coffeehouse and nightclub."

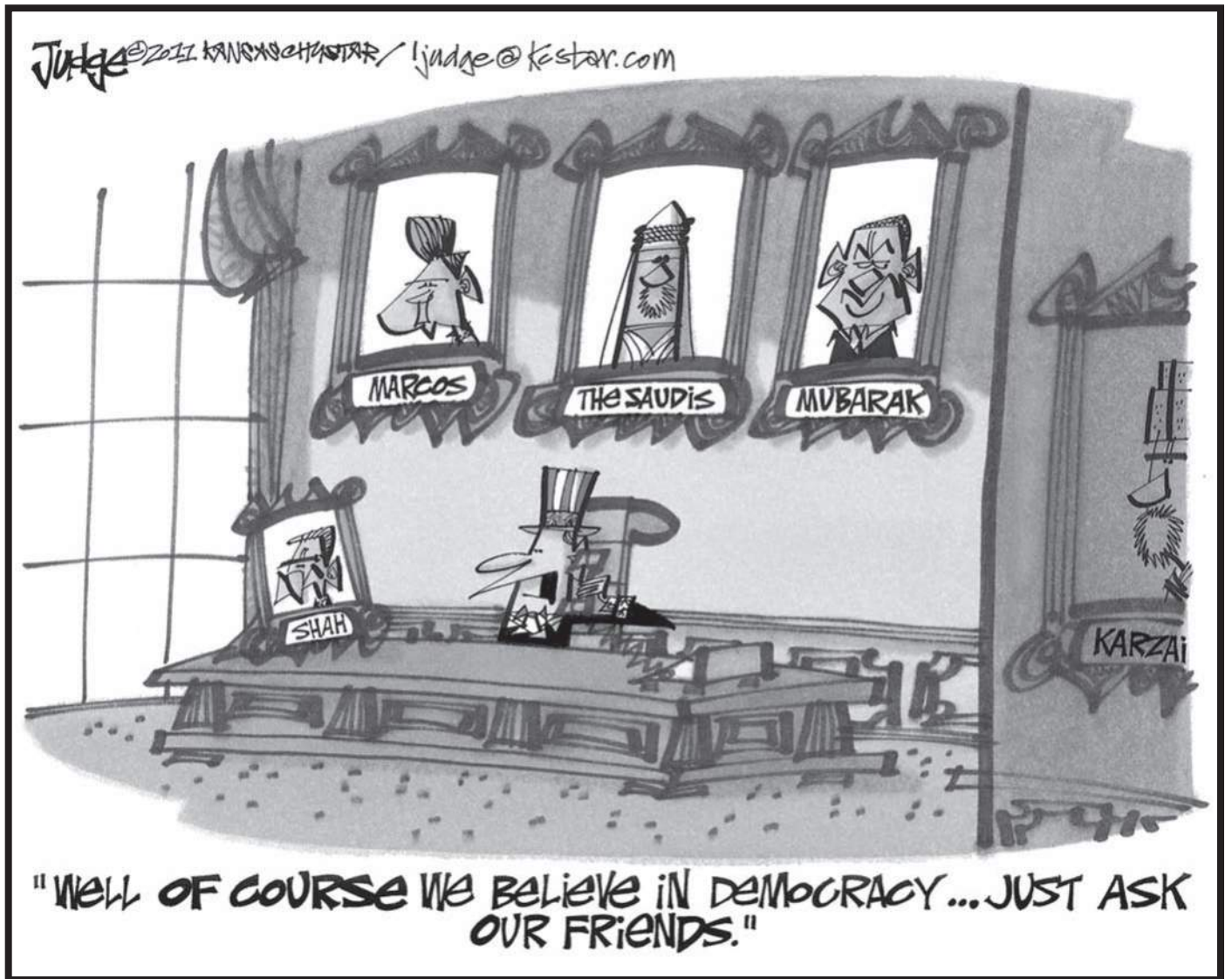
Clinton called for an uncensored Internet, and she criticized countries — including Egypt during the events of the last few weeks — that suppress online communication. But rather than grounding her case for an uncensored Internet only in traditional notions of free expression, Clinton also argued that Web freedom would encourage economic growth. "Freedom of thought and the level playing field made possible by the rule of law are part of what fuels innovation economies," she said.

In case authoritarian regimes are unpersuaded, Clinton noted that the United States has launched Twitter feeds in Arabic and Farsi and "continues to help people in oppressive Internet environments get around filters, stay one step ahead of the censors, the hackers and the thugs who beat them up or imprison them for what they say online." (Those efforts are worthy, but the Twitter feeds are likely to be viewed in many countries as an exercise in propaganda rather than an attempt to promote Internet freedom.)

In her address, Clinton celebrated the idea of confidentiality, saying it was necessary for the conduct of business and journalism as well as diplomatic communications. But she made it clear that in some instances confidentiality must yield to other values. Indeed, the administration in which she serves has placed law enforcement above protecting the privacy of some online communications.

That contradiction makes it easy for other nations to accuse the United States of hypocrisy. But it doesn't undermine Clinton's primary point that the Internet shouldn't be censored. It's an important message. Clinton said the costs of blocking the Internet are "unsustainable in the long run." But in the short run, even after the revolution in Egypt, plenty of autocrats will turn the "off" switch.

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Iraqis view Egypt with admiration

By ABEER MOHAMMED
The Institute for War & Peace Reporting

BAGHDAD—Frustrated with high unemployment, poor public services and corruption, Iraqis have been transfixed by media coverage of the uprising in Cairo. But while many are filled with admiration for the Egyptian people's efforts, most here appear reluctant to follow suit.

"I never watched any news on TV, but now I am following it daily," said Namareq Sultan, 22, a medical student in Baghdad, regarding the coverage of the ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "Even though we are busy with exams, we are making time to discuss the situation in Egypt. We want to have these kinds of protests. People there are speaking their minds while we are keeping quiet," Sultan said.

"I used to listen to songs while driving through Baghdad, but now I am listening to the news in Egypt. I am eager to hear what will happen next," said Abu Alaa, 34, a taxi driver.

Seemingly emboldened by what they've seen in Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen, some Iraqis—fed up with the way their country is run—have staged demonstrations over the past week. But the gatherings have drawn relatively small numbers—the largest in east Baghdad attracted just 3,000 people.

This, despite the fact that public anger has been simmering for years because of poor living standards and the government's perceived lack of responsiveness to citizens' needs.

Nearly eight years after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, shortages of electricity and water continue to be the norm. In recent days, undercurrents of discontent have risen to the surface from Baghdad to the southern city of Basra—and clerics have warned the government to heed citizens' demands.

Officials have indicated that they're paying some attention to such demands.

The state-run newspaper al-Sabah reported that a government committee is considering cutting the salaries of high-ranking officials, including the president and the prime minister. The savings would be used to improve the lives of the poor.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has already volunteered to cut his salary by half and provide citizens \$12 every month on top of their food rations.

At the same time, the planning ministry revealed that it intends to create 4 million new jobs to cope with the staggering level of

unemployment in the country, which is estimated at 15 percent, but is thought to be much higher.

On the other hand, officials say they're heartened that demonstrators have called for improved government services rather than fundamental political change as they did in Egypt, an indication that Iraqis may actually feel empowered to challenge authority.

"Most were local demonstrations calling for better services," said Ahmed al-Khafaji, a senior interior ministry official. "This is a positive trend that is in line with democracy. They are holding officials accountable."

"We are a country in transition and the services aren't good. It's the people's right to demonstrate," he added.

Indeed, the greatest threat to the development of democracy in Iraq may be public apathy. Ihsan Mohammed, a 30-year-old former military officer now working as a taxi driver in Baghdad, says people feel their voice carries little weight. "The problem in Iraq is you can say whatever you want, but no one listens," Mohammed said. "Even if you take to the streets here, the government might only respond to 10 percent of your demands. And this wouldn't be because of the people; they would make changes because of international pressure," he said.

Others suggest that the small demonstrations reflect the absence of a protest culture.

Hashem Hasan, a professor of media studies in Baghdad University, said, "Iraqis are so far behind — they are influenced by tribal traditions rather than democracy."

Still, politicians here realize that they ignore the lessons from Tunisia and Egypt at their own peril. Parliamentary speaker Osama al-Nujaifi was recently quoted as saying, "The popular fervor that is rocking neighboring countries confirms that ignoring people's dreams and deluding them with false promises during campaigns causes explosions."

ABOUT THE WRITER

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Surviving spouses and adoptees, again

We've written about surviving spouses and adoptees before, at least twice each. But every time we think we've exhausted these subjects, we learn something else the public needs to know.

Widows and Widowers—A Liberal Interpretation of the Law

A year ago we wrote about the amendment to the Immigration & Nationality Act (INA) that became effective Oct. 28, 2009, which specifically reversed the old, harsh rule that a surviving spouse who had been married to a U.S. citizen (USC) for less than two years could not apply for a green card after the USC spouse died, even if the USC spouse had filed a petition for alien relative (Form I-130). The new law provided that the length of the marriage is no longer relevant, so long as the parties were not separated at the time the USC spouse died, and the surviving spouse has not remarried. The law also provided that survivors whose spouses died before Oct. 28, 2009, had until Oct. 28, 2011 to file either a new petition (a Form I-360, a multipurpose form for self-petitioners) or to follow up on the prior I-130.

The guidance USCIS issued at that time, however, was not entirely clear, and we concluded that the benefit to surviving spouses only applied to those who were married less than two years before the USC spouse died. A month later, however, USCIS provided two fact sheets on its website, at <http://tinyurl.com/4saxrb8> and <http://tinyurl.com/y8p3q5e> and, on further review of the fact sheets and the statute, we decided we were wrong in thinking that only survivors married less than two years would qualify.

Our new conclusion was that it does not matter how long the couple was married before the USC died, or how long before October 28, 2009 the death occurred, so long as the proper application was made before October 28, 2011. Since then we have successfully processed a number of green card applications for widows of USCs, most of whom had been married less than two years when their spouses died.

But then, one day last November, we had two interviews for widows whose husbands had passed away more than two years before, and each of whom had been married for more than two years. And instead of approval at the interviews, which we expected, both were put on hold while USCIS decided whether the new statute did in fact apply to these people. We started telling other widows in the same situation to wait to apply until the decision came out.

Well, now it has, and both were approved. One of those cases is really significant because the USC spouse died over a decade ago. His widow, like many in the CNMI, had never applied for a green card before because of two factors: First, under CNMI immigration law, she remained an "IR" for life, so long as she did not remarry. Second, under U.S. immigration at the time, and until November 28, 2009, once she was approved as a U.S. permanent resident she would have had to leave the CNMI and relocate somewhere within the U.S. immigration borders. Even a move to Guam would have disrupted her life. Once the U.S. extinguished the CNMI's immigration authority, however, her "IR" permit was only good for a total of two years. If she had not been approved for a green card, she would have had to leave her home of the past approximately 30 years. Now, green card in hand, she can continue her life without worrying about her immigration status.

Many surviving spouses who have consulted us are concerned about the minimum income requirements for green card applicants

because they typically have very low incomes. Here's the good news: surviving spouses are exempt from the minimum income requirements, and do not have to file the Form I-864, which is the enforceable affidavit of support required for most applicants since 1996. Our friend Linda Wingenbach, an MLSC attorney who also handles surviving spouse applications, tells us that her clients have sometimes been required to prove that they will not become "public charges" by filing the old form of affidavit of support, the I-134, which is not "enforceable" as an I-864. The instructions for the I-134 state that it is used to apply for the government's discretion to admit someone who is otherwise inadmissible on "public charge" grounds. We have not had that happen with any of our clients yet. Just lucky, we guess.

If you are in a similar situation as our surviving spouse clients, the time to make your application is now. This is, essentially, a limited time offer: If you are a widow or widower and your USC spouse died more than two years ago, you have until October 28, 2011 to apply for a green card. After that date, it will be too late. All surviving spouses will be subject to the general rule that the application for permanent residence must be made within two years of the USC spouse's death.

Adoptees (and their Parents): Prove It's Real

We last wrote about the pitfalls facing adoptive children and parents both in April. In that column we discussed people who were adopted and later obtained green cards and even U.S. citizenship, but then discovered that their biological parents and siblings, with whom many had maintained close ties, could get no immigration benefits because the adoptions severed the "natural" family ties. We also wrote about people whose adoptive parents relied solely on CNMI immigration law, and took no steps to obtain U.S. permanent residence for their adopted children, until the children had turned 21 or married, and were no longer eligible for CNMI or U.S. immediate relative status. And we also discussed USCs who adopted their spouse's child after the child turned 16, which meant the child received no U.S. immigration benefit from the adoption—even though before the adoption the child would have qualified as an immediate relative stepchild. The cases are the saddest, where the child was eligible for a green card but the opportunity was lost either by the new parents' inaction, or by bad advice leading to an adoption that actually destroyed the child's eligibility for a green card.

What we also should have written about is the need to document the adoptive parents' role as parents in their new child's life. U.S. immigration law requires (with some exceptions such as foreign orphans, a more complicated topic about which we will write another time) that the alien child's adoption take place before she is 16 (unless a sibling under 16 is being adopted at the same time), and that the adopting parent or parents have the child in their legal custody and control for two years before filing a petition for the child's permanent residence. (By contrast, kids who become stepchildren of USCs before they turn 18 qualify at once as immediate relatives, and do not have to wait.)

We are starting to see USCIS responding to the initial application for permanent residence by adopted children with a Request for Further Evidence (RFE) requiring documentation that the child did indeed live in the adopting parent's control and custody for the requisite two-year period. We received an RFE recently for someone who was adopted while very young and has lived with her adoptive

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

father for about 15 years, even though his marriage to her mother broke up and the mother left the family years ago. Her younger sister, also adopted by the same father, also lived in the household until she was married, about a year ago. We submitted school records, proof of residence together, tax records and family photos (including one of the daughter in her confirmation gown, with the father proudly looking on) — but that wasn't enough for whoever did the initial review. We are confident she will be approved once she has jumped through these extra hoops.

There is a more difficult scenario that is not so uncommon here. A USC adopts her sister's child. The sister is in the CNMI as a contract worker, for example working in a garment factory. As a convenience, she uses the USC's mailing address; after all, they are sisters. Several years after the adoption the garment factory closes, and the USC hires her sister as her live-in housekeeper. Wouldn't you do the same for your family? Or maybe you should think twice, with your children's immigration future depending on how USCIS will view your living situation.

The result is predictable. Despite extensive RFE responses, the children's green card applications are denied because the adoptive mother cannot prove (1) that her sister did not live in the house for at least two years during which the adoptive mother should have exercised the necessary parental control, and (2) that her sister is not still acting as the children's mother. We aren't sure that she can but, if she thinks it is possible, she can file an appeal, which will be expensive, take a long time and may or may not succeed.

The lesson in this story: If you adopt children, you should be sure to mean it, and be able to demonstrate that the adoption is real, that these are your children over whom you exercise parental authority, without any question. If the adoption is not real, or if you cannot prove that it is, you may have gotten some short-term benefits under the old CNMI law, but in the long term, under U.S. law, both the you and the children lose.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Misunderstanding risk is risky

Imagine that you're shopping for a car and have to choose between two nearly identical vehicles.

In one car, you'd face a 2 percent risk of death in the event of a crash. In the other car, the risk is only 1 percent — plus an additional risk of just .01 percent (1 in 10,000) that in an accident, you'd be killed by the air bag.

The first car is nearly twice as dangerous as the second. Yet in a fascinating recent study, most people said they'd pick the first car.

What's really interesting is that, when participants were told the tiny extra risk was due not to the air bag, but to other factors that might increase the force of its deployment, most of them correctly chose the much safer second vehicle.

What going on here? According to Andrew Gershoff, a marketing professor at the University of Texas, and Jonathan Koehler, a law professor at Northwestern University, who conducted the study, people are very sensitive to what feels like a betrayal by something that is supposed to make them safer — in this case, the air bag.

Edward Tenner calls such things "revenge effects," and cataloged them in a book called "Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences." The relevant Yiddish term is *farpatshket*, which describes something messed up by an attempt to make it better.

Gershoff and Koehler may have stumbled across the reason people react irrationally to a whole range of safety devices. Take vaccines. Large numbers of people are afraid of vaccination because, on rare occasions, someone is harmed by it. But the much greater risk is forgoing vaccination.

The key to making better choices, Gershoff and Koehler found, is getting the emotion out of the process — for example, by avoiding provocative images of low-risk events, or viewing the relevant information graphically. People, they found, made more rational choices for strangers than for themselves.

But the real problem is that humans are just so bad at assessing risk. You'd think natural selection would have taken care of this by now. Our ancient ancestors wouldn't have survived very long if they were so busy worrying about getting cancer from wearing animal skins that they didn't notice any tigers lurking nearby.

But the modern world is vastly more complex than the evolutionary environment, and evidently we evolved to rely heavily on our emotions in deciding what to worry about. Maybe that's why, again and again, people become obsessed with vanishingly small risks.

The good news is that modern life is amazingly safe for parents, children and everyone else. Life expectancy increases all the time,

By **DANIEL AKST**
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, is the author of "We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess" from Penguin Press.



and such formerly quotidian killers as childbirth and industrial accidents have been cut radically — along with ailments such as tuberculosis and heart disease.

Consider traffic fatalities, a major killer for years. They plummeted from 43,510 in 2005 to 33,808 in 2009. That's the lowest level since 1950! And yes, the rate per mile and per capita is way down too.






Let's face it, the biggest threat to most of us is ourselves. Smoking isn't mandatory anywhere that I know of. Yet every year tobacco claims an astonishing 443,000 lives in this country. That's one in five deaths. And let's not even get started on what we do to ourselves with our own forks.

The great irony of all this is that worry is stressful, and stress is harmful to our health. Perhaps FDR had it more right than he knew when he said that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph. Highs around 86.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Palau	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 78

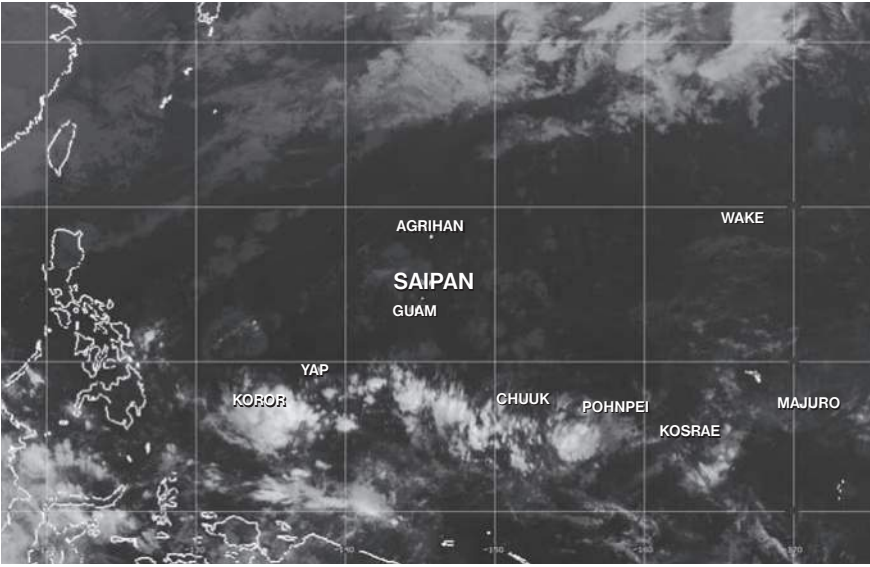
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 67
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 26
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 60
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 78 ▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 71
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 54
Miami	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 61
New York	Snow	▲ 34 ▼ 18
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Paris	Ice	▲ 46 ▼ 38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 41
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 35
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 42
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 40
Washington, DC	Snow	▲ 38 ▼ 26

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
5:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from south of Mindanao through 3N130E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap at 3N140E. The trough then undulates eastward to another circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 3N150E then southeastward to end at EQ155E. Convergent winds north of the trough axis are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Koror and south of Yap within 70 miles of a line from 6N138E to 8N140E to 8N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough and first circulation along the equator or south of a line from 4N130E to 5N144E. Scattered showers associated with the second circulation are found near Chuuk between 2N and 8N from 145E to 155E. Trade winds converging near the eastern end of the near-equatorial trough are creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within 135 miles of 6N158E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers north of Kwajalein between 9N and 14N from 165E to 172E. Widely scattered showers are found farther south over Ebon, Ailinglaplap and Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 2N164E to 8N168E to 5N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:19 PM	9:16 AM
Wednesday	11:20 PM	10:06 AM
Thursday		10:58 AM
Friday	12:20 AM	11:52 AM
Saturday	1:18 AM	12:47 P M

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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CAMPUS BULLETIN

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
				FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
				FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Chinese telecom giant calls off US deal

BEIJING (AP)—A major Chinese telecoms equipment maker is scrapping its effort to acquire a U.S. computer company after a security panel refused to approve the deal.

Huawei Technologies Ltd.'s bid to acquire 3Leaf Systems came amid concern in some countries about China's growing economic might and political assertiveness. American critics said the deal might allow sensitive technology to be transferred to China's military.

Huawei had said it hoped to win White House approval despite the recommendation by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to cancel the deal. But in a weekend announcement, Huawei reversed course and said it would withdraw its application.

"This was a difficult decision, however we have decided to accept the recommendation of CFIUS to withdraw our appli-

cation to acquire specific assets of 3Leaf," the company said in a brief statement. "The significant impact and attention that this transaction has caused were not what we intended. Rather, our intention was to go through all the procedures to reveal the truth about Huawei."

Huawei said it "will remain committed to long-term investment in the United States."

Huawei is one of the biggest makers of network switching gear and reported sales of \$28 billion last year. It has struggled to gain a foothold in the United States against rivals such as Cisco Systems Inc.

Huawei was founded by a former Chinese military officer, which has fueled speculation about its links to the People's Liberation Army. The company says it is owned by its employees and has no military connection.

Companies that fail to receive CFIUS approval usually with-



In this Feb. 17, 2011 file photo, a vendor works at a store selling Huawei network devices at a computer mall in Beijing, China.

draw proposed deals.

In 2008, Huawei and an American partner, Bain Capital, withdrew a request for U.S. government approval of a bid to buy 3Com. The companies said they failed to satisfy national security concerns.

Huawei says it failed to apply for approval of the \$2 million 3Leaf deal in advance because it bought the company's technology and hired some employees, rather than acquiring the whole company. The Pentagon took the unusual step of demanding that Huawei retroactively apply for a CFIUS review.

At a congressional hearing in Washington last week, National Intelligence Director James Clapper said the case highlighted the importance of ensuring that U.S. industry was aware of potential security threats "when we depend on foreign concerns for key components in any of our telecommunications network."

Nasdaq nears 10-year high; should you be nervous?

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nasdaq finished within 25 points of its highest level in a decade Friday, reminding investors of a time many would rather forget: The bursting of the dot-com bubble.

Today, tech is hot again. Facebook—which hasn't even gone public yet—is worth some \$50 billion. Online content company Demand Media rose 33 percent on the day of its initial public offering last month. The Nasdaq composite index closed Friday at 2,834, still only a little more than half its all-time closing

high of 5,049 in March 2000. But the index of mostly tech stocks is up 26 percent over the past 12 months.

Should investors be worried about another bubble? Not really, because there's a twist this time around: Technology companies are making money and may be valued correctly.

"It is night and day compared to 10 years ago," says Barry Mills, the manager of the \$400 million Dreyfus Technology Growth fund. "These business models are real. The revenues are real, and the cash flows are real."

Consider this: Judging by diluted earnings per share, a conservative method of valuing what a company's stocks are worth, the companies in the Nasdaq index were collectively earning \$39.28 per share in December 1999 and priced at 103.6 times their annual earnings. Now, the index has diluted earnings per share of \$127.64 and a price-earnings ratio of 22.11.

The economic recovery in the U.S. is one reason that technology companies are earning such high profits. Companies put off upgrading their computer sys-

tems and other large purchases during the worst days of the recession, and are making up for that now. Others are investing in new technology before they add employees.

International growth is another reason to be optimistic. Half of the profits of the technology companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index come from outside North America, says Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Asset Management. China is now the world's second-largest market for PCs, and consumers in

emerging market countries are showing strong demand for smart phones.

Technology companies in the S&P 500, a close proxy for the Nasdaq composite, are up 8.4 percent so far this year, about 2 percentage points more than the index as a whole. Last year, tech companies returned 10 percent after dividends, compared with the 15 percent return of the full index.

And tech stocks as a whole may be doing better than index returns show. That's because large companies—with the exception of Apple—that were hot stocks 10 years ago

have matured and their stocks have stalled. "The Microsofts, Yahoos, and Googles of the world aren't growing like they used to," says Michael Sanoterra, manager of the \$510 million RidgeWorth Large Cap Growth fund.

Bigger companies have a larger weighting in the Nasdaq index than smaller ones. Microsoft, for instance, makes up 5.6 percent of the index. The company has fallen 6.6 percent over the past 12 months.

And now to the question on the mind of any investor who was once burned by a bubble: Is it too late to get in?

Banks reopen in Egypt after week closure

CAIRO (AP)—Banks across Egypt threw open their doors Sunday, returning to business after an almost weeklong closure mandated by the central bank because of strikes and labor protests that have hampered efforts to reboot the nation's economy.

It marked the second time in three weeks that Egypt's banks have reopened after a state-ordered closure, highlighting the uncertainty that prevails in the country more than a week after mass demonstrations toppled longtime President Hosni Mubarak. An earlier attempt to open the banks and establish a semblance of normalcy during the height of the anti-government protests lasted only a week before the lenders were ordered shut.

Reopening the banks is a critical step in returning to business as usual in a country where the sense of hope sparked by Mubarak's ouster is tempered by the frustration that comes

with crafting a new political framework while also trying to allow people to move on with their lives.

But it is just as crucial for the economy, which already has been badly hit by the 18 days of unrest that ended with the military takeover on Feb. 11. The government has estimated the total losses during the unrest at over 10 billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.7 billion), with more than half of that linked to the vital tourism sector.

Keeping the banks shuttered, aside from impeding daily business for a range of Egyptian companies, had also served to further undercut investor sentiment in the Arab world's most populous nation. Rebuilding that confidence will be one of the military's top priorities, along with ensuring security and stability.

"I think we're back to business," said Wael Ziada, head of research at the Cairo-based

Mideast investment bank EFG-Hermes. He added that barring any major problems, he did not think the central bank will close lenders again.

The focus now will be on taking "measures to safeguard the banks from a contagion effect," he said.

Officials at the stock exchange, which has been shuttered for three weeks, said Saturday that the market would announce an opening date later and that it was putting procedures in place to prevent "market troubles" and allow for the bourse's "gradual return to normal operation." The market had been scheduled to restart on Feb. 16, but the date was pushed back with the closure of the banks.

Analysts say they expect the exchange to resume its operations later this week, barring another closure of the banks or some unforeseen development that triggers new unease.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Money for Ohio advanced energy grants runs out

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An increase in demand for grants to fund solar panels and advanced energy projects in Ohio, along with a shortage of funding, has prompted the state to stop taking requests and left many applicants without thousands of dollars they hoped or expected to get. The Department of Development stopped taking grant requests for the Advanced Energy Fund in November as money ran out, The Columbus Dispatch reported Sunday. The program awarded \$15.6 million in grants for 161 solar-panel and wind-turbine projects from July to November, according to records. More than 200 homeowners and businesses filed grant requests before the cutoff, only to find out they wouldn't get funds from the program this year, according to the newspaper.

Gas pipeline explodes in east-central Canada

BEARDMORE, Ontario (AP)—Police say a natural gas pipeline ruptured and exploded into a huge fireball in northwestern Ontario, but no one was injured. Greenstone Provincial Police Staff-Sgt. Carl Pettigrew said Sunday that the blast

occurred late Saturday near Beardmore, Ontario, about 170 kilometers (105 miles) northeast of Thunder Bay. Pettigrew says the flames were extinguished by Sunday morning. Police say the section of the TransCanada Corp. mainline that exploded forced a few hundred people to evacuate their homes, but they were told shortly after that they could return home. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada says they are investigating the cause of the explosion.

Iceland: New Icesave deal must go to public vote

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Icelandic President Olafur R. Grimsson said Sunday he would put a new deal aimed at solving a dispute with Britain and the Netherlands over a \$5 billion repayment to a public vote. Grimsson confirmed he would not personally ratify a plan to repay funds invested by British and Dutch citizens in Internet bank Icesave that were lost when it collapsed in late 2008. About 38,000 Icelanders—around 12 percent of the population—had signed a petition calling on Grimsson to authorize a referendum on the deal. A package with more onerous repayment terms was rejected in a national referendum last year.

Nation

Memories of 1995 haunt GOP as shutdown talk grows

WASHINGTON (AP)—Few memories haunt Republicans more deeply than the 1995-96 partial shutdown of the federal government, which helped President Bill Clinton reverse his falling fortunes and recast House Republicans as stubborn partisans, not savvy insurgents.

Now, as Congress careens toward a budget impasse, government insiders wonder if another shutdown is imminent—and whether Republicans again would suffer the most blame.

Leaders of both parties say they are determined to avoid a shutdown. But they have not yielded on the amount of spending cuts they will demand or accept. Meanwhile, shutdown talk is rippling through Washington and beyond.

“It’s good for political rhetoric to talk about a government shutdown. But I don’t know anybody that wants that to happen,” Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said on “Fox News Sunday.” Behind the scenes, Senate officials are spending Congress’ President’s Day recess week poring over the spending proposal passed by the House early Saturday, according to one Democratic leader.

“We are prepared to negotiate right away,” Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

The Obama administration is warning that workers who handle Social Security benefits



In this Jan. 4, 1996, file photo the sun gleams down on the still-closed Washington Monument as the federal budget impasse continued in Washington.

might be furloughed. Almost hourly, top Democrats and Re-

publicans accuse each other of pushing the government to the

brink by being inflexible.

“So much is at stake if this great government shuts down,” said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. “I would hope that instead of having ultimatums, we go forward with an approach that talks about how we keep government open.”

The House Republican campaign committee said Democrats are “shouting for a shutdown.”

For all the political drama and rhetoric, the actual stakes of a shutdown are not so dire for ordinary Americans. The military would stay active, interstate highways would remain open and government checks would be issued, although new applicants for benefits under programs such as Social Security might have their sign-ups delayed.

In fact, the federal government has had more than a dozen “shutdowns” since 1981. Some lasted only hours, and few are remembered.

The exception is the two-stage partial shutdown of 1995 and 1996. Then, as now, a Democratic president clashed over spending priorities with a recently installed Republican House majority. Then, as now, Congress had failed to fund the government for a full fiscal year, so agencies depended on a series of “continuing resolutions” to keep them in businesses while lawmakers feuded.

When Clinton in late 1995 ve-

GOP’s big cuts

House Republicans want to chop more than \$60 billion from domestic spending over the next seven months. Some of the biggest cuts, in billions:

Census programs	\$6.2
Base closure, realignment	\$5.1
Foreign aid	\$3.8
EPA	\$3.0
High speed rail	\$2.5
Job training	\$2.0
FEMA first responder grants	\$1.4
Agricultural programs	\$1.3
National, Community Service	\$1.0

Source: U.S. House Appropriations Committee
Graphic: Judy Treible

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toed a Republican-crafted spending bill—he called it insufficient for health care, education and other programs—parts of the government closed for six days.

After a brief truce, the parties clashed again. Hundreds of thousands of “non-essential” federal workers were furloughed for three weeks, from mid-December to early January. (Some workers eventually received back pay for missed days). National parks, muse-

ums, passport offices and other agencies closed.

Each party blamed the other. But public opinion soon swung toward Clinton and the Democrats. House Speaker Newt Gingrich didn’t help himself by suggesting he had triggered the shutdown out of pique because Clinton had made him ride in the back of Air Force One. Friends called it the biggest mistake of Gingrich’s career.

Republican lore portrays the 1995-96 shutdown as a political disaster. Lawmakers who lived through it have vowed: Never again.

“There’s absolutely no way” House Republicans will allow a shutdown, said Rep. Jerry Lewis of California, first elected in 1978. “It was a big mistake when Newt did it.”

“There’s not going to be one!” echoed Rep. Pete Sessions of Texas, who heads the House Republicans’ campaign committee.

Some political insiders are not convinced that a new shutdown would play out like the last one, or that Republicans would take nearly all the blame. Public alarm over the federal debt has grown dramatically in the past decade and a half. And Republicans regained control of the House last fall largely because of candidates backed by the conservative, limited government tea party movement who ran on promises to slash spending.

Wis. GOP ups pressure on Dems to return and vote

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin Republicans on Sunday upped the pressure on Democrats who fled to Illinois to return home and vote on an anti-union bill, with the governor calling them obstructionists and a GOP lawmaker threatening to convene without them.

Gov. Scott Walker said the 14 minority Democrats who left Madison on Thursday were failing to do their jobs by “hiding out” in another state. And Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said his chamber would meet Tuesday to act on non-spending bills and confirm some of the governor’s appointees even if the Democrats don’t show up—a scenario that should outrage their constituents.

Senate Democrats acknowl-

edged that the 19 Republicans could pass any item that doesn’t spend state money in their absence. The budget-repair bill they have been blocking requires a quorum of 20 senators to pass, while other measures require only a simple majority of the chamber’s 33 members.

Nonetheless, Democrats said they were standing firm in their opposition to the budget-repair bill, which would take away the right of most public employees to collectively bargain for their benefits and working conditions. Hundreds of protesters filled the Capitol for a sixth straight day, noisily calling on Walker to drop the plan they consider an assault on workers’ rights.

Mary Bell, the president of Wisconsin’s powerful teachers’

union, called on teachers to return to work as scheduled Monday rather than continue absences to protest that have shut down public schools across the state. Some districts, such as Madison public schools, were not scheduled to take Presidents Day off. However, the Madison district said it would cancel Monday’s classes because of expected teacher protests.

Bell said unions agreed to cuts in health care and retirement benefits that could reduce take-home pay for many workers by about 8 percent, and it was time for the Republican governor to compromise.

In a Sunday morning interview from Madison with Fox News, Walker said he did not believe union leaders were really interested in giving up their benefits and

cities, school districts and counties will need weakened unions to cut spending for years to come. Walker said he would not compromise and predicted Wisconsin would pave the way for other states to follow suit, much like it did with welfare reform and school vouchers in the 1990s.

“We’re willing to take this as long as it takes because in the end we’re doing the right thing,” Walker said.

The sweeping measure led to massive protests that started Tuesday and have gained steam, with an estimated 68,000 people turning out Saturday inside and around the Capitol. Most opposed the bill, but the day marked the first time that a significant contingent of Walker supporters showed up to counter-protest.

goes into a building and is able to pick off totally defenseless kids like sitting ducks.”

Until the Virginia Tech incident, the worst college shooting in U.S. history occurred at the University of Texas, when sniper Charles Whitman went to the top of the administration tower in 1966 and killed 16 people and wounded dozens. Last September, a University of Texas student fired several shots from an assault rifle before killing himself.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry, who sometimes packs a pistol when he jogs, has said he’s in favor of the idea.

Texas has become a prime battleground for the issue because of its gun culture and its size, with 38 public universities and more than 500,000 students. It would become the second state, following Utah, to pass such a broad-based law. Colorado gives colleges the option and several have allowed handguns.

Supporters of the legislation argue that gun violence on campuses, such as the mass shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007 and Northern Illinois in 2008, show that the best defense against a gunman is students who can shoot back.

“It’s strictly a matter of self-defense,” said state Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio. “I don’t ever want to see repeated on a Texas college campus what happened at Virginia Tech, where some deranged, suicidal madman

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Wounded gunman kills wife, NY officer

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. (AP)—A police officer was killed by a wounded, bleeding gunman who first shot his wife and then himself in a parked car, authorities said Sunday. The couple’s 3-year-old daughter, who also was in the car, was physically unharmed. Citing newly released autopsy results, Poughkeepsie police Chief Ron Knapp told a news conference that Lee Welch pumped two bullets into Jessica Welch while the couple sat in the family car near a train station Friday afternoon. The mother of three died of a gunshot to her head, Knapp said. Her husband then shot himself in the chest and grabbed the child as he staggered out of the car before trying to flee, with police officers approaching, the chief said.

Dismal commute predicted as storm hits Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Hundreds of flights were canceled at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and officials in several states advised people to stay off the highways as a winter storm blew through the upper Midwest on Sunday. Even before the worst of the storm hit, Delta Airlines canceled about 700 flights to and from the Twin Cities airport and other airlines thinned out their schedules, said airport spokeswoman Melissa Scovronski. She said Sunday afternoon the storm had shut down two of the airport’s four runways. In Detroit, airlines canceled roughly 230 flights though the city’s Metro Wayne County airport, while more than 200 flights through Chicago’s O’Hare airport were off.

1 dead, 20 firefighters hurt in NYC apartment fire

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 20 firefighters were injured as they battled for seven hours to extinguish a wind-fueled blaze that killed a woman in a Brooklyn apartment house and forced other residents to flee into the winter chill, officials said Sunday. The 64-year-old woman was found in the rubble of the six-floor apartment building Saturday, according to a Fire Department spokesman. The fire in the Flatbush neighborhood started just before 7 p.m. Saturday, fanned by wind gusts of more than 50 mph. “This was bad because of the wind,” Fire Chief Edward Kilduff told the Daily News. “We had to evacuate very quickly because basically the fire chased us right down the hall and down the stairs.”

Texas poised to pass bill allowing guns on campus

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas is preparing to give college students and professors the right to carry guns on campus, adding momentum to a national campaign to open this part of society to firearms.

More than half the members of the Texas House have signed on as co-authors of a measure directing universities to allow concealed handguns. The Senate passed a similar bill in 2009 and is expected to do so again.

Asia

China tries to stamp out 'Jasmine Revolution'

BEIJING (AP)—Jittery Chinese authorities staged a show of force to squelch a mysterious online call for a "Jasmine Revolution," with hundreds of onlookers but only a handful of people actively joining protests inspired by pro-democracy demonstrations sweeping the Middle East.

Authorities detained activists Sunday, increased the number of police on the streets, disconnected some cell phone text messaging services and censored Internet postings about the call to stage protests in Beijing, Shanghai and 11 other major cities.

Police took at least three people away in Beijing, one of whom tried to place white jasmine flowers on a planter while hundreds of people milled about the protest gathering spot, outside a McDonald's on the capital's busiest shopping street. In Shanghai, police led away three people near the planned protest spot after they scuffled in an apparent bid to grab the attention of passers-by.

Many activists said they didn't know who was behind the campaign and weren't sure

what to make of the call to protest, which first circulated Saturday on the U.S.-based Chinese-language news website Boxun.com.

The unsigned notice called for a "Jasmine Revolution"—the name given to the Tunisian protest movement—and urged people "to take responsibility for the future." Participants were urged to shout, "We want food, we want work, we want housing, we want fairness"—a slogan that highlights common complaints among Chinese.

China's authoritarian government is ever alert for domestic discontent and has appeared unnerved by protests in Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen, Algeria and Libya. It has limited media reports about them, stressing the instability caused by the protests, and restricted Internet searches to keep Chinese uninformed about Middle Easterners' grievances against their autocratic rulers.

Though there are many similarities between the complaints voiced by Middle East citizens and the everyday troubles of Chinese, Beijing's tight grip on the country's media, Inter-

net and other communication forums poses difficulties for anyone trying to organize mass demonstrations.

Police stepped up their presence near major public squares and canceled holidays for officers across 20 cities in response to the protest appeal, the Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy reported.

Extensive Internet filtering and monitoring meant that most Chinese were unlikely to know about the call to protest Sunday. Boxun.com is blocked, as are Twitter and Facebook, which

were instrumental in Egypt's protest movement. Tech-savvy Chinese can circumvent controls, but few of the country's Internet users seek out politically subversive content.

Anti-government gatherings in China are routinely stamped out by its pervasive security forces, which are well-funded and well-equipped. A pro-democracy movement in 1989 that directly challenged the Communist government was crushed by the military and hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed.

On Saturday, President Hu

Jintao ordered national and provincial officials to "solve prominent problems which might harm the harmony and stability of the society."

One person sitting in the McDonald's after the brief protest in Beijing said he saw Sunday's gathering as a dry run.

"Lots of people in here are Twitter users and came to watch like me," said 42-year-old Hu Di. "Actually this didn't have much organization, but it's a chance to meet each other. It's like preparing for the future."

With foot traffic always heavy at the Wangfujing pedestrian

mall, it was difficult to discern who showed up to protest, who came to watch and who was out shopping. Many wondered if there was a celebrity in the area because of the heavy police presence and dozens of foreign reporters and news cameras.

As the crowd swelled and police urged people to move on, 25-year-old Liu Xiaobai placed a white jasmine flower on a planter in front of the McDonald's and took some photos with his cell phone.

"I'm quite scared because they took away my phone. I just put down some white flowers, what's wrong with that?" Liu said afterward. "I'm just a normal citizen and I just want peace."

Security agents tried to take away Liu, but he was swarmed by journalists and eventually was seen walking away with a friend.

Two other people were taken away by police, including a shabbily dressed old man who was cursing and shouting, though it wasn't clear if he was there because of the online call to protest.

In Shanghai, three young men were taken away from outside a Starbucks coffee shop in People's Square by police, who refused to answer reporters' questions about why they were detained. They trio had been shouting complaints about the government and that food prices are too high.



A policeman, center, urges people to leave as they gather in front of a McDonald's restaurant which was a planned protest site in Beijing, China, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011.

Half of poll respondents call for Japan PM to quit

TOKYO (AP)—Nearly 50 percent of the respondents of a newspaper poll called for the resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan, while another survey released Monday showed the leader's public support falling to an all-time low.

Forty-nine percent of those who responded to a poll by the Asahi daily said Kan should step down immediately.

Since taking office last June, public support for Kan—Japan's fifth leader in less than four years—has quickly evaporated, with voters citing a lack of leadership. Recent polls showed support for Kan's Cabi-

net plummeting to below 20 percent, raising questions about how long he may last.

A separate survey by the Mainichi daily showed public support for Kan dropping to an all-time low of 19 percent, down 10 percentage points from a month ago.

In the Mainichi poll, around 34 percent of respondents said Kan lacked leadership, while another 34 percent said their expectations of the prime minister were low.

The results of the surveys underline deepening public frustration with the government and raise questions about Kan's

political longevity, casting a pall over his ability to tackle Japan's pressing problems, including a lackluster economy, a rapidly aging population and a ballooning public debt.

Kan, who heads the nation's ruling Democratic Party of Japan, is even losing some support within his own ranks, facing a revolt last week from a group of 16 DPJ lawmakers critical of his leadership.

The development does not immediately threaten the party's grip on power, but it is yet another sign showing Kan's weakening leadership.

The Asahi said its telephone

survey covered 3,484 randomly selected households. It received valid responses from 2,082 individuals on Saturday and Sunday. No margin of error was given, but a poll of that size would generally have a margin of error of about three percentage points.

The Mainichi said its telephone survey covered 1,492 randomly selected households. It received valid responses from 989 individuals on Saturday and Sunday. The paper gave no margin of error, but a poll of that size would generally have a margin of error of about five percentage points.

SKorean president says open to talks with NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said Sunday he wants "genuine" talks with North Korea, days after the North refused any further dialogue.

Tension on the Korean peninsula spiked last year over two deadly incidents—the sinking of a South Korean naval ship and a North Korean artillery barrage in November that killed four people on a front-line South Korean island.

The countries' military officers met earlier this month but failed to reach a breakthrough, with both sides accusing the other of rupturing their first dialogue since the bombardment. North Korea later threatened not to hold any more military talks with Seoul.

On Sunday, Lee told reporters that South Korea is ready for "genuine" talks with North Korea to promote a change in relations between the countries,

according to his office.

Lee was also quoted as saying that North Korea must change its behavior.

A flurry of diplomacy has been under way to defuse tensions between the Koreans, which are still technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

On Sunday, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun traveled to Pyongyang and met

top North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan. They discussed bilateral ties and matters of mutual concern, according to the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi is to visit South Korea later this week.

China is North Korea's biggest source of diplomatic and economic support and is thought to have the most leverage over its reclusive government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan to dig site linked to WWII human experiments

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is excavating the site of a former medical school that may reveal grisly secrets from World War II. The investigation begins Monday afternoon at the former school linked to Unit 731, a germ and biological warfare outfit during the war. Shadowy experiments conducted by the unit on war prisoners have never been officially acknowledged by the government but have been documented by historians and participants. It is the first government probe of the Tokyo site, and follows a former nurse's revelation that she helped bury body parts there as American forces began occupying the capital at the end of the war. Health Ministry official Kazuhiko Kawauchi said the excavation is aimed at finding out if anything is buried in the plot.

PH volcano blast prompts hundreds to flee

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hundreds of villagers fled to safety Monday after a restive volcano belched ash and smoke into the sky after a monthlong lull, officials said. Despite Mount Bulusan's ash explosion, its 13th since November, there were no signs of an imminent eruption involving magma pushing out of the cone, said government chief volcanolo-

gist Renato Solidum. The huge plume of grayish smoke shot up to more than a mile (2 kilometers) toward the blue sky, with the ash drifting southwest toward four farming towns in Sorsogon province, where about 1,200 villagers fled to emergency shelters and houses of relatives, said Benito Ramos, who heads the government's disaster-response agency. Army trucks helped villagers move from communities hit by the ashfall and emergency teams handed out protective masks, Ramos said.

Filipino rebels free 2 captives, will release 3rd

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels have freed a policeman and a soldier and will release a third captive in the southern Philippines partly to strengthen peace talks with the government, the rebels said Sunday. Government and rebel negotiators last week resumed negotiations in Norway which have been stalled for more than six years. Both sides declared a weeklong cease-fire to bolster the negotiations aimed at ending one of Asia's longest-running Marxist insurgencies. Police officer Jorge Sabatin walked free on Saturday after being wounded and snatched by New People's Army guerrillas in a Feb. 1 attack on a police outpost in Agusan del Sur province's Trento town, police and the rebels said.

World

Gadhafi's son warns of civil war in Libya

CAIRO (AP)—After anti-government unrest spread to the Libyan capital of Tripoli and protesters seized military bases and weapons Sunday, Moammar Gadhafi's son went on state television to proclaim that his father remained in charge with the army's backing and would "fight until the last man, the last woman, the last bullet."

Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, in the regime's first comments on the six days of demonstrations, warned the protesters that they risked igniting a civil war in which Libya's oil wealth "will be burned."

The speech followed a fierce crack-down by security forces who fired on thousands of demonstrators and funeral marchers in the eastern city of Benghazi in a bloody cycle of violence that killed 60 people on Sunday alone, according to a doctor in one city hospital. Since the six days of unrest began, more than 200 people have been killed, according to medical officials, human rights groups and exiled dissidents.

Libya response has been the harshest of any Arab country that has been wracked by the protests that toppled long-serving leaders in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt. But Gadhafi's son said his father would prevail.

"We are not Tunisia and Egypt," he said. "Moammar Gadhafi, our leader, is leading the battle in Tripoli, and we are with him."

"The armed forces are with him. Tens of thousands are heading here to be with him. We will fight until the last

man, the last woman, the last bullet," he said in a rambling and sometimes confused speech of nearly 40 minutes.

Although the elder Gadhafi did not appear, his son has often been put forward as the regime's face of reform.

Western countries have expressed concern at the rising violence against demonstrators in Libya. British Foreign Secretary William Hague said he spoke to Seif al-Islam by phone and told him that the country must embark on "dialogue and implement reforms," the Foreign Office said.

In his speech, the younger Gadhafi conceded the army made some mistakes during the protests because the troops were not trained to deal with demonstrators, but he added that the number of dead had been exaggerated, giving a death toll of 84.

He offered to put forward reforms within days that he described as a "historic national initiative" and said the regime was willing to remove some restrictions and begin discussions for a constitution. He offered to change a number of laws, including those cover-

ing the media and the penal code.

Dressed in a dark business suit and tie, Seif al-Islam wagged his finger frequently as he delivered his warnings. He said



Libya

Population 6,461,545 (July 2010)

Government Col. Moammar Gadhafi took power in a 1969 coup and is the Arab world's longest serving ruler; presides over a system of "people's congresses"

Main exports Crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas

GDP per person \$13,800 (2010)

Unemployment 30 percent (2004); one third at or below poverty line

International relations Returned to diplomatic fold after renouncing weapons of mass destruction and paying compensation for the Lockerbie bombing

Current situation

- Violent clashes in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city
- Opponents of regime calling for major protests, spreading the word by internet
- Leaders of neighboring nations Tunisia and Egypt have been driven from power

Source: ESRI, BBC, World Factbook
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2011 MCT



In this video image broadcast on Libyan state television early Monday Feb. 21, 2011 Seif al-Islam, son of longtime Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, speaks.

Bahrain opposition plots strategy before talks

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahrain's opposition wants the nation's rulers to guarantee they will back up their conciliatory words with actions, a Shiite leader said Sunday as he and other activists weighed the regime's offer for talks after nearly a week of protests and deadly clashes that have divided the Gulf nation.

The streets in the tiny but strategically important island kingdom were calmer as efforts shifted toward political haggling over demands the monarchy give up its near-absolute control over key policies and positions.

But bitterness and tensions still run deep after seesaw battles that saw riot police opening fire on protesters trying to reclaim landmark Pearl Square and then pulling back to allow them to occupy it. At least seven people have been killed and hundreds injured since the Arab wave for change reached the Gulf last Monday. The protesters were preparing to spend another night in the square by late Sunday.

Bahrain holds particular importance to Washington as the host of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, which is the main U.S. military counterweight to Iran's efforts to expand its armed forces and reach into the Gulf. Bahrain's ruling Sunni dynasty has strong backing from other Gulf Arab leaders, who fear that Shiite powerhouse Iran could gain further footholds through the uprising led by Bahrain's Shiite majority. The Shiite majority has often complains of discrimination by

the Sunni rulers.

Bahrain's rulers appear desperate to open a political dialogue after sharp criticism from Western allies and statements by overseers of next month's Formula One race that the unrest could force the cancellation of Bahrain's premier international event.

But opposition leaders appear to be in no hurry to talk.

"Yesterday you kill people and today you want them to sit with you. It's not that easy," said a leader of the main Shiite opposition group Al Wefaq, Abdul-Jalil Khalil. He said no talks have taken place yet.

Khalil said the opposition's main demand is for the resignation of the government that is responsible for this week's bloodshed and has been led by the same prime minister—the king's uncle—for 40 years.

Other demands include abolishing the monarchy's privileges to set policies and appoint all key political posts, along with addressing longstanding claims of discrimination and abuses against Shiites, who represent about 70 percent of Bahrain's 525,000 citizens.

"We are not refusing a dialogue with the crown prince, but we need guarantees they will back words with action," Khalil said.

To underline how eager the royal family is to appease the youthful demonstrators Bahrain state TV broadcast a talk show with three young protesters voicing their grievances.

One of the men, a Shiite, was chok-

ing back tears when he said the protesters have a message that needs to be heard in a civilized manner and called on the Sunni rulers to close the sectarian divide.

No violence was reported Sunday, but many parts of the country were paralyzed by a general strike that was called by the workers' unions—and suspended by day's end.

"The strike has been suspended and not called off because our preliminary demands of removing the tanks and police (off the streets) and allowing us to protest peacefully were fulfilled," Salman Mahfoudh, head of the Workers Trade Union, told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

"There seems to be a real move toward dialogue. If we find that this is reversed or if we are attacked again, we will go back to striking," Mahfoudh said.

Workers at two state-run giants—the Gulf Air and The Bahrain Petroleum Company (BopCo)—were among thousands who did not show up for work on Sunday.

At the Sanabis Intermediate Girls School, about 10 women teachers sat outside the empty school yard in a sign of support for the strike.

"We are on strike to support our fellow people in the square," said Samira Ali, 40, a science teacher. "We feel emboldened with our cause after blood was spilled. I want a real constitutional monarchy where my voice is heard and my message reaches to the government."

WORLD BRIEFS

Pirates: Warship shadowing hijacked American yacht

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A warship is shadowing a yacht with four Americans on board that was hijacked by Somali pirates, a pirate said Sunday, as the vessel was reported to be moving closer to the Somali coast. The yacht Quest was hijacked on Friday off the coast of Oman, but is now in the waters between Yemen and northern Somalia, two pirates and a Somali government official told The Associated Press. One pirate who gave his name only as Hassan said a warship with a helicopter on its deck is near the Quest. The pirate's claim could not be independently verified, and U.S. officials on Sunday did not release any information about the yacht. A U.S. Embassy spokesman on Saturday said officials were assessing options and "possible responses."

Israel eyes Suez trip of Iran warships with worry

CAIRO (AP)—Iran's first attempt in decades to send warships through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean on Europe's—and NATO's—southern flank could further destabilize the Middle East, a region already reeling from an unprecedented wave of anti-government rebellions. Egypt's new military rulers, who took power from ousted Hosni Mubarak a little more than a week ago, have granted two

that if protests continued, Libya would slide back to "colonial" rule. "You will get Americans and European fleets coming your way and they will occupy you."

He threatened to "eradicate the pockets of sedition" and said the army will play a main role in restoring order.

"There has to be a firm stand," he said. "This is not the Tunisian or Egyptian army."

Protesters had seized some military bases, tanks and other weapons, he said, blaming Islamists, the media, thugs, drunks and drug abusers, foreigners—including Egyptians and Tunisians.

He also admitted that the unrest had spread to Tripoli, with people firing in central Green Square before fleeing.

The rebellion by Libyans frustrated with Gadhafi's more than 40 years of authoritarian rule has spread to more than a half-dozen eastern cities—but also to Tripoli, where secret police were heavily deployed on the streets of the city of 2 million.

Armed security forces were seen on rooftops surrounding central Green Square, a witness said by telephone, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. The witness added that a group of about 200 lawyers and judges were protesting inside a Tripoli courthouse, which was also surrounded by security forces.

An exiled opposition leader in Cairo said hundreds of protesters were near the Bab al-Aziziya military camp where Gadhafi lives on Tripoli's outskirts of Tripoli. Faiz Jibril said his contacts inside Libya were also reporting that hundreds of protesters had gathered in another downtown plaza, Martyrs Square.

12 taxi drivers, fares killed in Mexican resort

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—A spate of attacks on taxis in the Mexican resort city of Acapulco has left 12 taxi drivers or passengers dead, police said Sunday, just hours before the Mexican Open tennis tournament is scheduled to start. Acapulco has been the scene of bloody drug cartel turf wars, and taxi drivers have often been targeted for extortion or recruited by the gangs to act as look-outs or transport drugs. The organizers of the largest tennis tournament in Latin America said in a statement Sunday that the Mexican government has assured them that appropriate security measures have been taken for the event that starts Monday. Police in Guerrero state, where Acapulco is located, said that four suspects had been detained in relation with some of the attacks. The suspects had guns, a grenade and a machete that police say may have been used to decapitate some of the victims.

Focus

AP ENTERPRISE:
Cat-and-mouse
with border
smugglers

AP
 In this Feb. 10, 2011 photo, U.S. Border Patrol agents Janice Jones, left, and Glenn Pickering ride snowmobiles along the St. Lawrence River in Massena, N.Y.

By **CHRIS HAWLEY**
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

MASSENA, N.Y. (AP)—Border Patrol agent Glenn Pickering slowed his rumbling snowmobile to a stop and eyed two trails of churned-up snow running down a riverbank.

They were snowmobile tracks leading out onto the ice of the frozen St. Lawrence River that runs between upstate New York and Canada. At night smugglers race across the ice with bags of marijuana. Pickering shielded his eyes with his hand as the wind covered the tracks; he couldn't see whether they went all the way across the border.

"There are all these islands out here, and the snowmobiles just come shooting across," Pickering said. "It's a constant battle."

This is the United States' forgotten border, where federal agents and police play cat-and-mouse with smugglers and illegal immigrants along 4,000 miles of a mostly unmarked and unfortified frontier with Canada. Unlike the southern border with Mexico, where drug-related violence has exploded in recent years, the northern border rarely makes headlines.

That changed this month after the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report warning that the terrorist threat from Canada was higher than from Mexico because of the vast swaths of unprotected frontier. Just 32 miles of the 4,000-mile border have an acceptable level of Border Patrol security, with agents available to make on-site arrests, the report said.

Senators from northern border states urged the Obama administration to deploy military radar and more unmanned planes. The head of the Senate's Homeland Security committee, Conn. Sen. Joe Lieberman, suggested the government should examine whether to require visas of Canadian visitors.

"Our country is so focused on the southern border," said Rep. Candice Miller, R-Michigan, who will chair a hearing about the report on Tuesday. "At the same time the northern border is essentially wide open."

U.S. officials have said they are especially worried about extremists

like Ahmed Ressam, the "millennium bomber" who was caught in 1999 trying to bring an explosives-filled car into the United States on a ferry from British Columbia. Ressam had planned to bomb the Los Angeles airport during the 2000 New Year celebration.

The GAO report also warned of "known terrorist organizations" in Canada. Since 2004 Canadian investigators have uncovered plots to bomb the country's main stock exchange, government buildings in Canada and targets in Britain.

Recent drug arrests have highlighted the border's porousness. In May, a Canadian kingpin confessed to running 2,000 pounds of marijuana a week through the forests of upstate New York. A gang arrested in November smuggled the narcotic painkiller OxyContin. And in December, Canadian officials arrested 29 smugglers on charges of using boats to run tons of marijuana, Ecstasy and methamphetamine across the Great Lakes to Michigan and New York.

President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper signed a Feb. 4 agreement to share more information on travelers and better coordinate cross-border investigations. The Department of Homeland Security has tripled the number of agents on the northern border in recent years and is building a \$30 million intelligence-gathering center at a Michigan Air National Guard base.

Some critics say the Canadian threat is overblown, saying the volume of most drugs seized along its border is still a tiny fraction of 1 percent compared to seizures at U.S.-Mexico crossings. Residents complain that increased patrols are scaring away Canadian visitors.

"There are more drugs on Wall Street than here," said Jonathan Maracle, 35, who owns a gift shop on the 12,000-member Akwesasne Mohawk reservation, straddling New York and Canada on both sides of the St. Lawrence River. "All they're trying to do is make us look bad up here because they can't control up here. The United States government is nothing but bullies."

Few places show the challenges border agents face like the reservation, a frigid archipelago just downriver from

where Pickering rode his snowmobile on a recent afternoon, offering The Associated Press a tour of his territory.

About 20 percent of all the high-potency marijuana produced in Canada—"multiple tons" each week—is smuggled through a patch of border less than 10 miles wide on the reservation, the U.S. Department of Justice reported in May. Since 2008, U.S. prosecutors say they have broken up four major smuggling rings operating on the Mohawk territory.

The river here is scattered with small islands that smugglers can use for cover as they hopscotch across the border in boats and snowmobiles. Thick forest on both sides provides cover from surveillance planes.

The political landscape is even more complicated than the geography. The

One admitted smuggler, Steven Sarti, described to a U.S. judge in May how he and an 18-man crew stuffed high-potency marijuana into black duffel bags used for hockey gear, then coded the bags with numbers representing different buyers. The gang smuggled 2,000 pounds of marijuana a week.

There have been no confirmed cases of terrorists coming through the reservation, but U.S. officials say they're worried it could happen.

"The folks we're dealing with, both in drug trafficking and terrorist activities, are not stupid," said James Burns, who directs Drug Enforcement Administration operations along the New York-Canada border. "We don't want to have anybody exploit a weak point."

Elsewhere on the border, tighter se-

"Their Thanksgiving is Columbus Day, so they would come over here to buy their turkeys because it was cheaper," said Champion, 63.

The trips were technically illegal, but no one cared, he said. But in recent years federal agents have been stopping boats and even coming into bars to check IDs, he said. Three of the bars have closed for lack of customers.

"This used to be the greatest unsecured border in the world," Champion said. "Now everything's dried up."

Canadians, too, are worried about the "thickening" of the border, said Mark Salter, an expert on national security at the University of Ottawa.

Drug seizures and crime along the U.S.-Canadian border are nothing compared to what's smuggled across the southern border, he said. Canada's stronger economy and smaller population—about 33 million compared to 147 million in Mexico and Central America—also means there is less illegal immigration.

"There is simply not the scale of threat to the United States from Canada as there is from the southern border," Salter said.

About 7,500 pounds of marijuana coming from Canada were seized in 2009, compared with 3.2 million pounds seized on the southern border. However, agents seized six times as much Ecstasy on the northern border as on the southern border in 2009, the Justice Department said.

Marijuana seizures have doubled since 2007 in the Border Patrol's Swanton, Vt., sector, which covers northern New York, Border Patrol officials say. And the marijuana that Canada produces is much more potent than most Mexican varieties and sells for triple the price.

Opposition politicians in Canada have accused Harper, the prime minister, of buying into U.S. paranoia with the new border security agreement.

Fortunately for the United States, Canada has done a pretty good job of patrolling its own coastlines and identifying terrorist threats, said Michael O'Hanlon, a security expert at the Brookings Institution think-tank in Washington.

In the end, he said, the United States will probably have to live with much of its northern border unpatrolled.

“All they’re trying to do is make us look bad up here because they can’t control up here. The United States government is nothing but bullies.”

Mohawk territory sprawls across both sides of the river and spills into both Quebec and Ontario.

Tribal leaders and police officials declined the AP's interview requests. But two huge signs at a main intersection spell out a common sentiment toward outside authorities threatening the tribe's autonomy.

"Yes, 'terrorists' come thru Akwesasne. They are N.Y.S.P. (state police), Border Patrol, ATF, FBI, etc., etc.!"

U.S. Border Patrol agents rarely go onto the territory without a tribal police escort, said Wade Laughman, agent in charge at the Massena Border Patrol.

"You get a lot of intimidation techniques: blocking in of your vehicles, people yelling at you, screaming at you, guys surrounding you," Laughman said. "It's not safe for one agent to go down there by himself."

Smugglers run contraband in both directions, Laughman said: marijuana, Ecstasy and methamphetamine come south while money, tax-free cigarettes, weapons and cocaine smuggled from Mexico goes north.

curity around official border crossings is driving smugglers deeper into the wilderness.

In Sanilac County, Mich., Sheriff Gary Biniecki said his county's coastline on Lake Huron was a quiet place until 2008, when the government began installing sensors and cameras along the St. Clair River, to the south. The increased surveillance forced smugglers to cross Lake Huron instead of the river.

Soon residents in Biniecki's territory were reporting inflatable boats lurking offshore at night, strange goings-on at public boat ramps, and suspicious cars on deserted roads.

"Because so much pressure has been put down there, they're coming north," Biniecki said.

Still, many residents doubt whether the threat is real and chafe at border security measures.

In Waddington, N.Y., 20 miles west of Massena on the St. Lawrence River, visitors used to boat over from Canada to shop at the IGA or sip a beer at one of the four bars near the waterfront, said resident Herb Champion.

Overdrive

2011 Cayenne: This time, Porsche gets it right



MCT
The 2011 Porsche Cayenne.

By BARRY SPYKER
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Porsche's critics came out like ants at a barbecue when it first introduced the Cayenne SUV for model year 2003.

What were they thinking? What business do they have taking the Porsche name and reputation and slapping it onto an SUV?

Worse than that, I'd suggested after driving one, where did they go wrong? It didn't feel like a Porsche or steer like one, let alone handle like one.

For 2011, consider the Cayenne redeemed.

The second-generation, completely revised Cayenne is remarkably improved, with better looks, performance and even a hybrid version—though the hybrid's low-20s mpg figures are nothing to brag about.

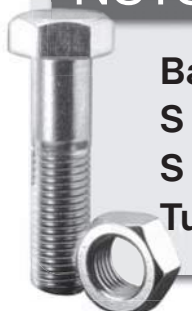
You'll first think it looks smaller, but it's not. It is actually a little bigger. The five-seat mid-size SUV is slightly wider, nearly two inches longer and taller than the previous generation. But it is more streamlined, with a lowered front and raked rear pillar, and that makes it just appear smaller.

So it isn't smaller but it is nearly 400 pounds lighter, thanks to more abundant aluminum in the chassis, lightweight panels and wheels. But make no mistake: This is still a big boy at 4,500 pounds.

Cayenne's selection of powertrains should satisfy just about everyone's desires. Even the base 3.6-liter V6 puts out 300 horses—and all-wheel-drive system is standard. So is a man-

ual tranny.

The Cayenne S brings in a 4.8-liter that stables 400 ponies. An 8-speed automatic is standard here in addition to the all-wheel-drive. Acceler-



NUTS & BOLTS

Base: \$48,700
S version: \$63,700
S Hybrid: \$67,700
Turbo: \$105,600

ating more like the Porsche we know, it gets to 60 mph in 5.6 seconds.

If it's all-out power you seek, a turbocharged version is available; it adds 100 more

horses and 518 foot-pounds of torque. It also includes a six-figure price tag.

The Turbo does 0-60 in a neck-jarring 4.4 seconds, says Porsche. Accelerate at your own risk—

do not report neck spasms to Porsche.

Also available with the S version is a hybrid, featuring a supercharged 3.0-liter V-6 married to a 46-horse electric motor. A nickel-metal hydride battery is tucked under the luggage compartment. The cumulative result is 380 hp and a 0-60 time around six seconds.

This is a hybrid? Apparently no one wanted you to forget this is a Porsche, too. But you

pay for that in mileage, rated at merely 21 city, 25 highway. That's not super economical but it is better than the V-6 at 15 city, 22 highway.

The new Cayenne is more sporting to drive, offering the kind of agility you'd expect from Porsche and not from an SUV. It takes corners with ease, not like a 911 mind you, but with little concern.

A dynamic suspension system (which can raise ground clearance) offers road feel without being obnoxious about it, meaning it's a fine everyday driver, too.

The hybrid version is said to be a little less fun, with lighter steering and a softer suspension.

Driving through the gears is a smooth experience. Porsche switched from a six-speed to an eight-speed automatic, and

the ratio changes result in better mileage.

Credit that tranny for the 500-hp turbo's mileage figures—amazingly equal to the base V-6 at around 15 mpg city, 22 highway.

Cayenne's revamped cabin sports rich leather and aluminum trim and shares much, not by accident, with the exquisite interior of Porsche's new Panamera.

It is not only more elegant, with softer-touch materials, but it's also more user-friendly. Instruments are closer together. The center console is loaded with buttons but the arrangement is well done—it just may take a while to memorize them all.

The color monitor is bigger than last year's and now is a touch screen. Two top-quality sound systems are available, one a Bose and the other a Burmester.

Seats are somewhat firm but comfortable, available with either 8-way power or 18-way power if you opt for the sport seats. The bolsters are among the numerous seat adjustments offered.

To satisfy rear passengers, seats back there recline and move forward and back. Nice feature for this segment.

All Cayennes get a full complement of air bags, including front-side bags and side curtain air bags. Rear-side bags are optional.

Also available: a blind-spot warning indicator, a rearview camera and parking sensors for the inhibited.

The base Cayenne is loaded with goodies like leather trim, self-leveling headlamps, power tailgate, tilt-and-telescoping wheel, and 10-speaker sound system. The S and S Hybrid offer different powertrains and hydraulic steering systems.

OK, purists, this brute is not a 911. But let's cut Porsche some slack here. The 2011 Cayenne is much improved from the last generation and a whole lot closer to what we dream about when we think Porsche.

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Question: How do I know when it's necessary to replace my belts and hoses? My oil change/tune-up place told me I should do this now but my car has only 47,800 miles and is a 2005. I looked at them and the rubber still looks good. I checked my owner's manual and it doesn't say anything about replacing these parts, only inspecting. What is the best thing to do?

Answer: I'd agree you're in the mileage/time range to consider replacement. Under favorable conditions, belts and hoses could last twice this long, but what's important here is protecting your engine and averting a common cause of vehicle breakdown. Here's why belts and hoses need to be taken seriously: Many modern automotive and light truck engines use a single serpentine belt to run the engine's accessories. These are the water pump (vitally important for engine cooling), alternator (provides electrical power for the entire

When to replace belts and hoses?

vehicle), power steering pump (allows much easier steering), air conditioning compressor (provides cool air and defrosting assist), and possibly an air injection pump (an emission control device). Some engines drive the water pump via the much sturdier and separate timing belt, or directly by the cam shaft. In this case a failed serpentine accessory drive belt would be much less of a concern.

Should an aging single serpentine belt break, one would immediately feel the steering become very stiff, and the red battery warning light would come on. With all this occurring, you probably wouldn't notice the lack of A/C or a soon to illuminate check engine light. If your water pump is driven by the serpentine belt, it's imperative to get off the road right away and shut the engine down to prevent engine overheating. Without coolant circulation, localized hot spots (typically

in the cylinder head area) will soon cause grave damage. If necessary, the vehicle could be driven a few blocks at a time, with a five-ten minute engine-off cool down period between, to get to a safer or more desired location.

Cooling system hoses typically degrade from the inside out, making proper inspection difficult. A small split in a hose isn't serious, as long as it's noticed and corrected, perhaps with a day or two. The big concern is maintaining enough coolant to keep the engine safe. A larger failure could cause a rapid loss of coolant and big trouble to emerge within 5-10 minutes if corrective action isn't taken.

I don't mean to scare you with these possibilities and help your mechanic make his boat payment. I've seen more than a few cases of seemingly innocent neglect cause really expensive and avoidable failures, and it's troubling. A badly

overheated engine is one of the most unpredictable and problematic things one can repair, tempting a repair shop to recommend an engine replacement, rather than to risk a nobody-wins comeback due to unforeseen repair issues.

Renewing belts, hoses and coolant now, or within the next year would be a good idea. Everyone you talk to will have differing opinions on this. By renewing the parts, you'd spend perhaps \$200 to buy piece of mind regarding breakdowns, and stand the best chance you can, along with periodic oil changes, of averting a possible \$3,000 to \$8,000 engine failure. Newer engines are trickier and more costly to fix, and much less forgiving of accidental abuse than the cast iron Ford 390 I drove as a kid.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Check the mailbox: Royal wedding invites posted

LONDON (AP)—Keep an eye on the mailbox—Britain's Prince William and bride-to-be Kate Middleton have sent out invites to their hotly anticipated royal wedding to around 1,900 guests.

Military personnel and charity workers will mingle with European royalty, diplomats and the family and friends of the couple at the Westminster Abbey ceremony on April 29, St. James's Palace said Sunday.

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh will lead a group of 50 members of the British royal family at the wedding, while around 40 representatives of foreign royal families—likely to include dignitaries from Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Greece—will also attend.

It isn't yet known whether celebrities including singer Elton John—a friend of William's mother Diana, the Princess of Wales—or Kanye West, a favorite of the prince who performed at a 2007 tribute concert for his mother, are among those who'll receive a prized invite.

Britain's Sunday Express newspaper reported that footballer David Beckham and his wife Victoria are on the royal guest list. William worked with Beckham on England's failed bid to win the right to

host the 2018 World Cup.

In a statement, William's office insisted it would not disclose details of individual guests. Beckham's office also declined to confirm he and his wife would attend.

One guest already ruled out is Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, the ex-wife of William's uncle Prince Andrew. Her office said in a statement she "won't be attending and she was never expecting to attend," but confirmed she won't be available for hire as a high-profile commentator.

Royal historian Hugo Vickers said details of the guest list released so far suggested ordinary members of the public won't have a front line role.

"I think what this tells us is that they are a very traditional couple," Vickers said. "It strikes me as an entirely sensible and predictable type of list, looking to balance the need to invite all the people who should be there—because William will one day be king—with inviting those who they want to be there."

Ordinary well-wishers will instead throng the capital's streets, watching Middleton arrive at Westminster Abbey by car, but leave with her new husband in a



In this photo taken Wednesday Feb. 16, 2011 at Buckingham Palace in London, a member of the Lord Chamberlain's Office, no name given, places invitations into envelopes, to the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, before posting them to the lucky guests who will be present at the April 29, 2011 royal wedding to be held in Westminster Abbey.

horse-drawn carriage to parade through the heart of ceremonial London to Buckingham Palace.

Tourists and Britons alike will crowd close to the palace after the ceremony, hoping to catch a glimpse of William and his bride as they present themselves on the building's famous balcony.

Millions more will watch the ceremony and celebrations on live television—crowded around screens in their homes, at street parties in towns and villages and at major landmarks. Lawmakers are already lobbying London Mayor Boris Johnson to install a giant screen in the city's iconic Trafalgar Square.

Britain's Foreign Office said royal officials had sent their regrets to Estibalis Chavez, a 19-year-old fan who has protested outside the country's embassy in Mexico City demanding an invite.

At Westminster Abbey, Prime Minister David Cameron and his deputy Nick Clegg will likely be

among 200 lawmakers, government staff and diplomats invited—with high-profile ambassadors also expected to attend.

Leaders of several Commonwealth nations—and the governor generals who represent the queen in Canada, Australia and New Zealand—are also though certain to be included among guests.

Vickers said many European royals likely to attend are closer in age to William, second in line to the throne, than his father Charles—suggesting the guest list may have a more youthful feel than royal weddings of the past.

William's office said about 1,000 guests will be the family and friends of the prince, his bride and their parents. Roommates who lived with William and Middleton as they studied at Scotland's St. Andrews University, young entrepreneur Guy Pelly and television reporter Tom Bradby—who conducted the only interview with the couple following their engagement—could all receive an invitation.

Around 80 guests will come from charities which William supports, including African wildlife charity Tusk, and Centrepont, which helps young homeless people.

Cuba's celebration of books draws millions

HAVANA (AP)—A river of people flows through the old colonial fortress, and the antics of clowns and music blasting from loudspeakers are interrupted only when an announcer summons the parents of a lost child. It's a festival all right, but a festival of books.

The high walls of El Morro and La Cabana, which offer a spectacular view of Havana's bay, house a giant celebration that mingles literary chit-chat with an exuberant popular fair where some 6 million visitors socialize, browse for sandwiches of sizzling pork and scramble for novels, essays and scientific tomes.

With an illiteracy rate near

zero, Cuba boasts that its International Book Fair—which turns 20 this year—has little in common with what it calls more elitist events in the Americas and Europe.

"This fair is oriented toward the reader ... as a chance to acquire books and have a dialogue with the authors, both Cubans and foreigners," organizer Edel Morales told The Associated Press.

"It is a notable difference to others in the world where people rarely attend," he said. "Here it is the people who make the fair."

Still, what sets the fair apart also presents some challenges.

The absence of a "professional segment" of meetings between critics, large publishing houses and other experts is one of its short-

comings, Morales acknowledged.

The event catalog lists more than 60 national exhibitors including publishers and regional cultural centers. All share one characteristic: They either are run by the state or have strong ties to the government.

About 30 foreign publishers have also turned out. Most are small and some are financed by the nations honored at this year's festival: the leftist ALBA bloc that includes Cuba, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia.

Zuleica Romay, president of the Cuban Book Institute said 2,400 titles are for sale and an estimated 6 million people, counting return visitors, will attend, either during the Havana run that ends Sunday or during a two-week tour of the country's provinces.

The most-visited pavilion appeared to be one offering local volumes on everything from art and literature to social sciences, alternative medicine and biographies at prices attractive to Cubans who love to read but often find books hard to find.

"I come every year. It is good to walk through and get books that are not always available," said Nadira Reyes, a 30-year-old teacher who was looking for colorful books with animals gracing the covers for her preschool-age son.

A few yards (meters) away, Yadrana Torres, 20, wanted books on beauty and massage, which she is studying.



People attend the annual International Fair Book at the Morro Castle fortress in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday Feb. 16, 2011.

Death Announcement

Joe "Ping" Taitano De Leon Guerrero

From Oct. 31, 1945
to Feb. 14, 2011

Jose died early in the morning
of February 14, 2011

Jose Taitano De Leon Guerrero was born in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) on October 31, 1945. He went by the nicknames of Ping, or Jose Indian and served in the Army during the Vietnam War. Described by his family as an entrepreneur, Jose was the quintessential businessman. Primarily raised in Saipan & Guam, he also lived in Washington State, where he has many tall tales from his time at Ft. Lewis during his military stint, and also Las Vegas, where one could only IMAGINE what kind of trouble he got into there!

Most recently though, he lived in Saipan. Jose loved hunting, fishing, hiking, tennis, Bowling and golf. In his spiritual life he was a Jehovah's Witness since 1989 and he died faithful to his God Jehovah.

He was preceded in Death by: Mary Yvette Montanez Leon Guerrero (Daughter), Jesus Muna Leon Guerrero (Father), Anunciacion Taitano Leon Guerrero (Mother), Barbara Dolores Clark (Sister), Jesus Taitano Leon Guerrero (Brother).

Jose is survived by sons: Joey Montanez Leon Guerrero (Guam), Jody Montanez Leon Guerrero (Portland, OR) Daughter-In-Law: Melody Mackey (Portland, OR) grandchildren: Mariah Diaz Leon Guerrero (Guam) and Kian Napu Leon Guerrero (Portland, OR) brothers/sisters & spouses: Maria T. Leon Guerrero (CA) and children, Carmen T. Leon Guerrero (CT) and children, Vicente T. and Margarita Leon Guerrero (Guam) and children, Ana T. Leon Guerrero (Guam) and children, Susana T. Leon Guerrero (NM), Elizabeth T. Leon Guerrero (Guam) and children, Josephine T. Leon Guerrero (Guam) and children, Frankie T. and Leia Leon Guerrero (WA) and children.

He is also survived by his numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews and nieces in Saipan, CNMI.

A Wake is to be held on 2/17/11 at noon at 70 Cameo Drive Kalama, WA 98625, and Mass and Rosary will be held nightly till 2/23/11 at 7 pm at Santa Barbara Church Dededo, GU. Contact Person regarding this obituary: Frankie T. Leon Guerrero (360) 431-3840. Arrangements were by Crown Memorial Center-Portland.

His ashes will be brought by his son Joey Leon Guerrero in Saipan, CNMI on February 25, 2011. Funeral discourse will be held on February 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, behind Eucon International School.

Neeson's 'Unknown' wins weekend with \$21.8M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Liam Neeson has proven himself a known quantity again at the box office.

Neeson's thriller, "Unknown," debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$21.8 million, following in the footsteps of his 2009 action hit "Taken," according to studio estimates Sunday.

Another action tale, "I Am Number Four," opened at No. 2 with \$19.5 million.

A Warner Bros. release, "Unknown" stars Neeson as a botanist who awakens from a coma to find his wife claims she does not know him and that another man has taken his identity.

DreamWorks' "I Am Number Four" stars Alex Pettyfer as a teenage alien refugee on Earth who develops superpowers to battle the evil invaders that destroyed his planet. It was

the first DreamWorks movie released under the company's distribution deal with Disney.

While "I Am Number Four" held youth appeal, "Unknown" was a rare No. 1 film that did most of its business among older crowds. According to Warner, 54 percent of the movie's audience was 50 and over and 89 percent was 25 and over.

The 58-year-old Neeson has had action roles before but found unexpected success as an all-out action hero with "Taken," a \$100 million hit.

"He's the new man. He's stepped up to the plate. Put him in the right role and he's every man's action star," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner.

Two movies that opened the previous weekend held the next two spots in the top 10.

Disney's animated comedy,

"Gnomeo & Juliet," was No. 3 with \$19.4 million, finishing so closely to "I Am Number Four" that the two movies could change rankings when studios release final numbers Tuesday, after the long President's Day weekend. "Gnomeo & Juliet" raised its total to \$50.4 million.

Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston's romance "Just Go With It," which had been No. 1 the previous weekend, fell to fourth place with \$18.2 million. The Sony release lifted its total to \$60.8 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, Martin Lawrence's comedy, "Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son," was No. 5 with \$17 million. The 20th Century Fox sequel has Lawrence reprising his role as a federal agent who goes undercover as a hefty woman to crack a case.



1. "Unknown," \$21.8 million.
2. "I Am Number Four," \$19.5 million.
3. "Gnomeo & Juliet," \$19.4 million.
4. "Just Go With It," \$18.2 million.
5. "Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son," \$17 million.
6. "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," \$13.6 million.
7. "The King's Speech," \$6.6 million.
8. "The Roommate," \$4.1 million.
9. "The Eagle," \$3.6 million.
10. "No Strings Attached," \$3.1 million.

In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Liam Neeson is shown in a scene from, "Unknown."

Hollywood finally broke a long downturn in business during which revenues were off 14 straight weekends compared to last year's.

This weekend, receipts totaled \$144 million, up 7.7 percent compared to the same period last year, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

But compared to President's Day weekend in 2010, which fell a week earlier, revenues this time were down 30 percent.

"This was certainly not a record President's Day weekend by any stretch, but it was a good weekend," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It was solid but not spectacular, but at least it broke the down streak."

Two top contenders at next Sunday's Academy Awards hit the \$100 million mark.

The Weinstein Co. drama "The King's Speech," the best-picture front-runner, pulled in \$6.6 million to lift its total to \$103.3 million. Fox Searchlight's psychosexual thriller, "Black Swan," took in \$1.3 million and raised its haul to \$101.5 million.

Colin Firth of "The King's Speech" and Natalie Portman of "Black Swan" are considered the favorites for the lead-acting Oscar awards.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

Mexico state congress asks ban of video game

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—A shoot-em-up video game set in the border town of Ciudad Juarez has angered local officials who are busy fighting all-too-real violence.

Chihuahua state legislators said Sunday they have asked federal authorities to ban the game, "Call of Juarez: The Cartel," which is based on drug cartel shootouts in Ciudad Juarez.

About 6,000 people died in drug-related violence in Ciudad Juarez in 2009 and 2010, making the city, located across from El Paso, Texas, one of the deadliest in the world.

The web site of game developer Ubisoft Entertainment SA says the title is due for release this summer. Screen shots from the game show three characters armed with a pistol, an assault rifle and a shotgun ready to open fire on a city street.

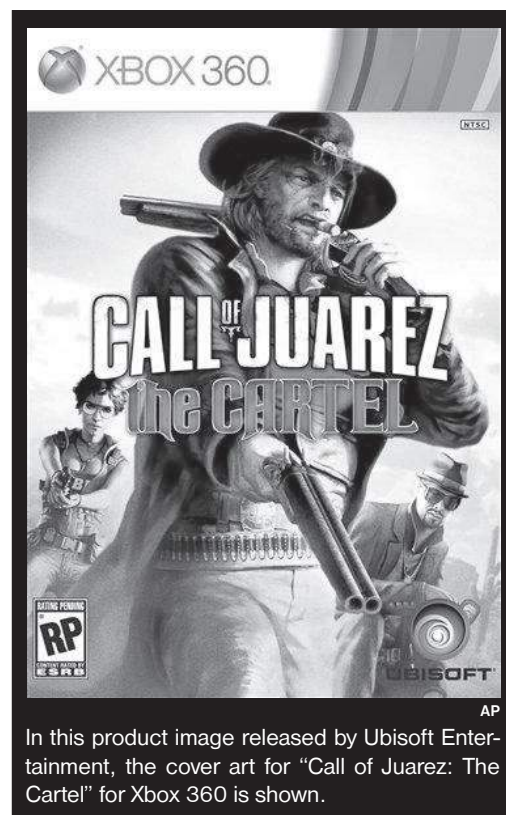
The game's promotional slogan urges players, "Take justice into your own hands and experience the lawlessness of the modern Wild West." No one answered a message left at the company's San Francisco office. Ricardo Boone Salmon, a congressman for Chihuahua state, where Ciudad Juarez is located, said the state legislature unanimously approved a request this week asking the federal Interior Department to ban the game.

"It is true there is a serious crime situation, which we are not trying to hide," Boone Salmon said. "But we also should not expose children to this kind of scenarios so that they are going to grow up with this kind of image and lack of values."

State congress leader Enrique Serrano said the main concern was the potential effect on children in Ciudad Juarez, some of whom have already been taught to "duck and cover" if firefights erupt outside their schools.

"Children wind up being easily involved in criminal acts over time, because among other things, during their childhood not enough care has been taken about what they see on television and playing video games," Serrano said. "They believe so much blood and death is normal."

It is not the first time city officials have been angered by references to Juarez's problems.



In this product image released by Ubisoft Entertainment, the cover art for "Call of Juarez: The Cartel" for Xbox 360 is shown.

In 2010, the New York-based MAC cosmetics company abandoned Mexican sales of a makeup collection that raised hackles because it featured pallid, ghostly hues said to be inspired by deaths of women in the city. The collection of lipstick, blushes and other cosmetics uses names like "Juarez," "Bordertown," "Ghost Town" and "Factory."

More than 100 women were abused and murdered before their bodies were dumped in Ciudad Juarez's desert between 1993 and 2003. Many of the victims were factory workers.

In 2004, the city's then-mayor called for a boycott of the song "The Women of Juarez," by Los Tigres del Norte, one of Mexico's top-selling bands. It blasted Mexican authorities for failing to solve the killings of women.

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Big Momma's Like Father Like Son

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Martin Lawrence returns as FBI agent Malcolm Turner in this third outing in the Big Momma's House series. This entry sees Lawrence's cross-dressing alter-ego, Big Momma, heading to an all-girls school with his nephew, Trent (Brandon T. Jackson), in order to hunt down a murderer. John Whitesell directs off a script by Matthew Fogel.



I Am Number Four

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
 Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A teenage fugitive with an incredible secret races to stay one step ahead of the mysterious forces seeking to track and destroy him in this sci-fi action thriller from director D.J. Caruso (Disturbia, Eagle Eye). With three dead and one on the run, the race to find the elusive Number Four begins. Outwardly normal teen John Smith (Alex Pettyfer) never gets too comfortable in the same identity, and along with his guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), he is constantly moving from town to town — the perpetual new kid in a series of strangely familiar schools.



Unknown

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
 Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A man (Liam Neeson) wakes up from a coma while on a business trip to Europe only to find that some other man has taken his identity and stepped into his life. Diane Kruger and January Jones co-star.



Just Go With It

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Jennifer Aniston, Adam Sandler
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Gnomeo and Juliet

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

James McAvoy, Emily Blunt
 Musical, Children's/family • Rated G



Justin Bieber: Never Say Never

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

Justin Bieber
 Musical • Rated G



Sanctum

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Richard Roxburgh, Rhys Wakefield
 Drama • Rated R

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Rihanna rocks celeb-studded NBA All-Star game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With a celebrity-studded crowd looking on, Rihanna rocked the half-time show at the NBA All-Star game on her 23rd birthday.

She had some other big names helping her sing her hits Sunday, with Drake joining in on “What’s My Name?” and working “happy birthday” into the lyrics. Dripping in gold chains, a red-clad Kanye West came out for “All of the Lights,” which is off his latest album but features Rihanna.

At halftime, the lights inside Staples Center went out and the video screens filled with water droplets, setting the stage for Rihanna to emerge from behind a wall singing “Umbrella.”

The red-haired singer soon shed her short black suit jacket and white scarf to reveal a short black skirt and a rhinestone halter. She shimmied her way through “Only Girl (In the World)” and didn’t flinch when her huge hoop earring fell off her left ear in mid-song.

While it was a working day for Rihanna, her fellow music stars relaxed in their seats while watching the 60th annual All-Star game.

Beyonce and hubby Jay-Z sat courtside, with Justin Bieber (MVP of Friday’s All-Star celebrity game) two seats away.



Rihanna watches during the second half of the NBA basketball All-Star Game on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Sean “Diddy” Combs, Stevie Wonder (wearing headphones), Grammy winner Bruno Mars, Keri Hilson, Ne-Yo, Gene Simmons, and “American Idol” judge Steven Tyler were scattered around the arena. Rapper Nicki Minaj snacked on pink cotton candy.

Benny, the Chicago Bulls mascot, jumped into the seat next to singer John Legend and his girlfriend-model Chrissy Teigen to joke around.

Canadian singer Melanie Fiona sang her country’s national anthem, and Los Angeles native

Josh Groban did the U.S. anthem. With plenty of fog swirling, Lenny Kravitz played during the pregame introductions.

Among the movie and TV stars in attendance were Dustin Hoffman, Spike Lee, Warren Beatty, Rick Fox and girlfriend-actress Eliza Dushku, and Nick Cannon (without wife Mariah Carey). CNN talk show host Piers Morgan furiously worked his cell phone during most of the action.

Actress Gabrielle Union walked the magenta carpet outside the arena before the game, dishing on her boyfriend, Miami

Heat guard Dwyane Wade.

“His closet is way bigger than mine. He’s way, way, way into clothes that his closet is like five times the size of mine,” Union said.

Wade loves different scents, too. “He is a little bit obsessed with the smell of cocoa butter. He loves it for himself,” she said. “He’s got, I think, over 30 different colognes.”

If the fashion police had been on patrol, they might have cited former NBA great Darryl Dawkins.

Standing 6-foot-11, the man nicknamed “Chocolate Thunder” for his ferocious dunking ability made an even louder statement by wearing a lime-colored pinstriped suit.

As soon as Orlando Magic forward Dwight Howard spotted Dawkins, he couldn’t help but offer a critique.

“He looks like a big lizard. Aw-w-w, man,” Howard said. “I thought last night’s suit was terrible, but then he came out today looking like a highlighter? That’s probably one of the worst suits I’ve ever seen in my life.”

While Howard and many of the other arriving NBA players dressed up in suits and ties, Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant dressed down in jeans and a black leather jacket.

Never say never: Bieber wins MVP at celeb game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber finally won a trophy in L.A.

The teen singing sensation, who was shut out at the Grammys, was chosen most valuable player despite playing for the losing team in the NBA All-Star celebrity game on Friday night.

Bieber had eight points, four assists and two rebounds for the West team, which lost 54-49 to the East at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen led the Magic Johnson-coached East team with 17 points in a game whose defensive highlight might have been Pippen’s third-quarter block of Bieber.

The vertically challenged Bieber scampered up and down the court, his famous shaggy ‘do bouncing with every step as girls shrieked at the sight.

“He has the softest hair,” marveled former Los Angeles Laker Rick Fox, who patted his West teammate Bieber on the



Singer Justin Bieber, center, makes his way down the court during a BBVA All-Star celebrity basketball game at the NBA All Star Weekend in Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.

head during the game.

Wearing a black T-shirt under his red-and-white jersey, Bieber spent most of the game hitching up his shorts that fell well below the knee. His pregame stretching included trying, but failing, to touch his toes.

Bieber showed off some slick moves, dribbling behind his back, and driving and dishing to taller teammate and ESPN analyst Jalen Rose. Bieber fed A.C. Green for the game’s first basket, and the singer later hit a 3-pointer.

“I’m just running back and forth,” Bieber said during an in-game interview. “I’m controlling this whole team. I’m just kidding.”

With actor Jamie Foxx and Lakers star Lamar Odom watching, Bieber missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it with 30 seconds to go. Afterward, the 16-year-old was hurried off the court by burly security guards.

Bieber’s week began when he lost out on his two Grammy nominations at Staples Center. But things picked up with another TV guest appearance on “CSI” and his “Never Say Never” concert movie was No. 2 at the box office.

Bieber’s celebrity teammates were Zac Levi of “Chuck,” R&B singer Trey Songz, rapper Romeo Miller, and Rob Kardashian, whose sister Khloe is married to Odom.

“He didn’t embarrass the family,” Odom said afterward.

Report: Austrian drops Bo Derek as Opera Ball date

VIENNA (AP)—An Austrian news agency is quoting a quirky construction mogul as saying he won’t be taking actress Bo Derek to Vienna’s famous Opera Ball after all and that her re-

placement may be the teenager embroiled in a sex scandal surrounding Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

Richard Lugner, a 78-year-old who loves the limelight, books a different celebrity for the fancy affair every year. Recent dates have included Paris Hilton and Dita Von Teese. Lugner announced last week that Derek, who starred in “Tarzan, the Ape Man,” would be next.

The Austria Press Agency on Sunday quoted Lugner as saying he would cancel his contract with the 54-year-old because she wanted \$25,000 more than originally agreed to.

Lugner later also told APA his team has almost completed negotiations with Karima el-Mahroug, an 18-year-old nicknamed Ruby, who is at the center of a prostitution scandal that has sent Berlusconi to trial.

Homeless family faces hard choice for sake of children

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I need advice from someone who doesn’t know me personally. My husband and I have been married four years and have three lovely kids. Recently we have hit hard times.

A few months ago my husband lost his job, and from there we hit rock bottom. Right now we are sleeping in our car. My problem is I don’t like having my kids live like this. It makes me mad and I feel like a bad parent. I could go to a women’s shelter, but I don’t want to break up my family. I’m scared, and I’m not sure what to do.

My husband is working now, but we don’t have enough money to get an apartment, so I was considering staying in a hotel—but it will take some time before we can do that. Do you think we should stay at the shelter until we have a place, or until we can get a hotel room? I need some serious advice.

SCARED IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS



Dear Abby

DEAR SCARED: I’m glad you asked. You should check out the shelter and see what kind of accommodations they can make for you and your small children. It’s a better, safer environment for them than five people sleeping in a car. I know this is a painful decision, but it isn’t “breaking up the family.” It is only temporary until you and your husband have saved enough for accommodations together again.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For the last five years I have had no time for myself. I’m 30 and have a wonderful wife and two daughters, 7 and 4. I work a 40-hour week and go to school full-time.

I don’t want to sound selfish, because I know that my priorities are my wife and daughters, and I enjoy spending “quality time” with them. But I also feel that every other week or so, I should be able to get away for a few hours by myself to enjoy 18 holes of golf or go fishing.

If I tell my wife I’m going to do something, she makes me feel guilty. If I ask, she gives me the third degree. I know she doesn’t need or want time to herself because I have asked her repeatedly if she does, hoping she’d return the favor—but she doesn’t give me “permission.”

Am I asking the impossible? How do I find time for myself and tell my wife without upsetting her?

“SELFISH” IN SPRINGFIELD

DEAR “SELFISH”: (Almost) everyone needs “alone time” to pursue personal interests and unwind. You have a full schedule and you deserve quality time for yourself. Out of consideration for your wife, ask her if playing golf or fishing on a specific day conflicts with any couple or family event she had planned. And be sure to tell her that having some time to yourself will make you a better husband and father—because it’s the truth. Then go and enjoy yourself, and don’t feel guilty.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend is new to Facebook and insists on posting something daily. The problem is he can’t spell, and it’s quite embarrassing. I’ve told him he should reread his posts before he sends them, but he doesn’t. How should I handle this?

CAN YOU SAY SPELL CHECK?

DEAR SPELL CHECK: Your boyfriend’s problem isn’t that he can’t spell. It’s that he’s too lazy to use spell check. Much as you might like to “handle this” for him, you can’t. Some people must learn their lessons the hard way, and until he embarrasses himself badly enough to proofread his postings, he’ll continue not checking his spelling.

Warning: Do not step in and become his editor or it could become a full-time job.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



In this image taken Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 and made available Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, Karima El Mahroug nicknamed Ruby smiles in Milan, Italy.

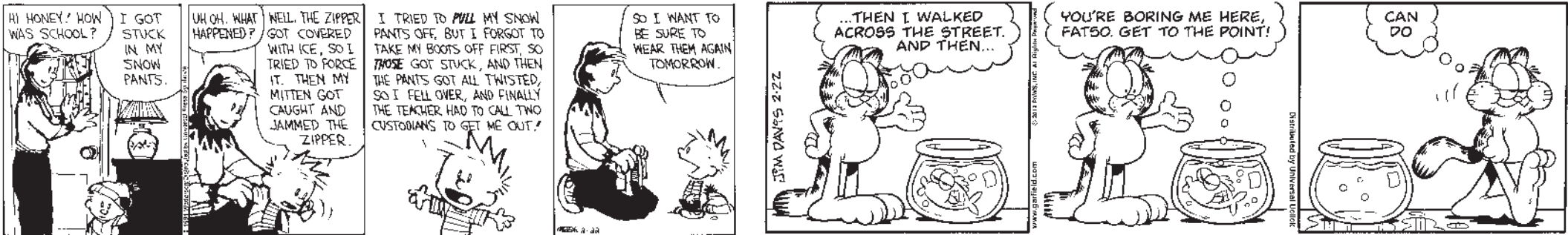
AP

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

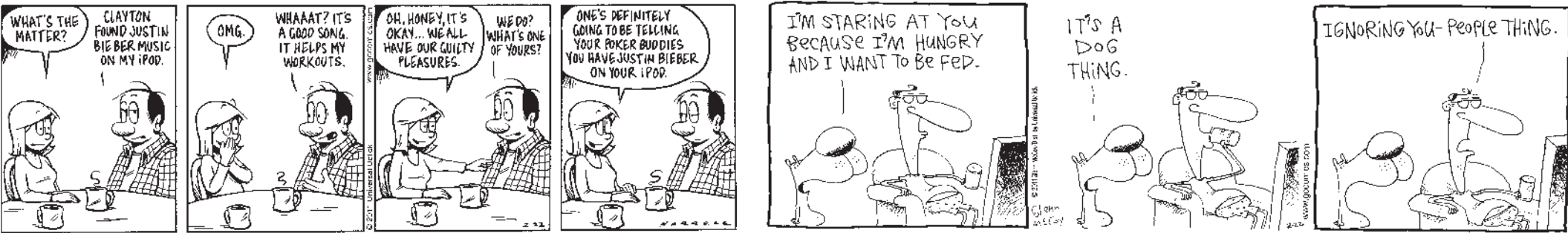
By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 "Animal House" 1 St. Louis team 5 Lingerie item 8 Tubular pasta 12 Concept 13 Chow down 14 Paradise 15 Historically significant symbol 17 Blueprint 18 Police officer 19 Yellow-brown colors 21 Bit part 24 Black plus white 25 Palette selections 26 Canadian city 30 Greek H 31 Trio of goddesses 32 Portion of N.A. 33 Kingdom

DOWN 1 Edge 2 Commotion 3 Chaps 4 Pasta toppings 5 Gridlock sound 6 Operated 7 Lawyer 8 Gentle breeze 9 Not working 10 Rip 11 Hostels 16 Cattle call 20 Eliot-based musical 21 Sci. course 22 Car 23 Intend 24 Barbarians 26 Knotted fringes 27 Franc replacement 28 Now, on a memo 29 Tardy 31 Unravel 34 Old calculator 35 Ornate, as prose 37 Id counterpart 38 Juror, in theory 39 Church section 40 Chanteuse Edith 41 From beginning 44 Eggs 45 Hearty brew 46 Eisenhower 47 1960s hallucinogen

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Barrymore, 36; Thomas Jane, 42; Jeri Ryan, 43; Kyle MacLachlan, 52

Happy Birthday: Follow your heart and your intuition, especially when dealing with medical, legal, financial or contractual issues. Share only what you want others to know. Plan and execute strategically and you will achieve what you set out to do. Love is in the stars and a promise can be made. Your numbers are 3, 9, 17, 21, 30, 37, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Temptation will entice you to do things you normally wouldn't do. Overstepping your bounds, taking on too much and blowing situations out of proportion can all be expected. Discipline will be required. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll learn a lot from the company you keep and the places you visit. Keep an open mind. Offering your services will be well received and will bring you recognition and propositions you cannot refuse. Celebrate with someone you love. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on work, getting ahead or adding to your skills. You'll come up with a good plan or idea that can lead to a higher position or give you the edge you need. Don't worry about a negative comment; it's insecurity speaking, nothing more. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Open your ears and listen to what's being said. You will pick up valuable information that will allow you to raise your profile. A business trip will

pay off. Mix business with pleasure and you will make a hit with someone you love. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Taking the initiative will keep you in the game and ensure that you hang on to what you've worked so hard to achieve. Don't let complaints from friends or your lover cause you to miss out on a professional event with opportunities to network. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can count on friends and family to help you out. An opportunity to work with people you know well will give you greater hope for the future. Security and stability will come with knowing where you stand and the possibilities that exist. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be too quick to rule out what someone you are close to or trust is capable of doing. Keep the peace no matter what it takes. Put your effort into self-improvement and creative endeavors. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): People from your past can make a difference to your life now. Someone who shared your interests will have a sound idea for a project you are working on now. Revisit old ideas and methods. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Offer your services and add a little excitement and adventure into whatever you do and people from different walks of life will gravitate toward you. Don't worry about the changes happening in your personal life or at home. You'll benefit in the end. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Too much of anything will cause problems for you today. Back away from anyone who is indulgent or wasteful. Rely on past experience to see you through emotional trouble brought on by a work-related relationship. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let your emotions lead you down the wrong path. There is plenty you can do to stabilize your position if you refuse to let your personal feelings interfere with what needs to be done. Make your intentions perfectly clear. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refrain from getting involved in joint ventures when you can do what needs doing on your own. Having the confidence to move forward is all that's required. Control your investment in a project you believe in. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are creative and insightful. You are helpful and endearing and welcome change and adventure.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

2/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★

2/21

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRUE GRIT Solution: 7 letters

E U C S E R O T C O D L O G T
W N E E T R U O F A R M R N R
H S E F U E O B A L K I E A A
S T F H O U S E S E T L E G C
O E O C O G B U R N A B E F K
J I G M T C C T I H O E L R C
U N N D C R A L S S M M I A A
S F O O I H O R K A A U A U H
T E T M O R A O E X T R H D S
I L E R B M B N S E T D I F E
C D S I N A H T E T I E D A N
E E T W H I S K E Y E R E T O
S E G N I K N I R U O J O E L
R N E R U T N E V D A M A R D

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Yesterday's Answer: Confidence

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Announcement#: **10-111**
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 Opening Date: **11/16/10**
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Kobe claims 4th MVP in West's win

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant brought his NBA finals focus to the All-Star game.

And just like June, he walked off his home floor with the MVP trophy in his hands.

Shining brightest again among the stars, Bryant brought Showtime back to the All-Star game, scoring 37 points and tying a record with his fourth MVP award in the Western Conference's 148-143 victory over the East on Sunday night.

"I feel like we have a sense of responsibility and we are voted in for what we do during the season, which is play hard," Bryant said. "And we come here, that's what the fans want to see. They want to see us go at it and see us compete and that's what I try to do and that's what I try to tell my teammates to do."

Returning to the game he dominates after a one-year absence, Bryant added 14 rebounds in a spectacular performance in front of the usual celebrity-filled crowd that turns out to see his Lakers at Staples Center.

"It was like playing in a playground. It was like a pickup game almost," Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant said. "Just to watch it, I see it on TV all the time, I play against him all the time. But to be on his team and see the things that he was doing out there is just amazing."

Durant chipped in 34 points, scoring five straight after the East cut a 17-point deficit after three quarters to two points with 2:34 to play. The NBA scoring leader added the clinching free throws after the East got back within three in the final seconds.

LeBron James powered the East rally, finishing with 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to join Michael Jordan as the only players with a triple-double in the All-Star game. Amare Stoudemire also scored 29, but Miami's Dwyane Wade, the MVP of the East's win last year, had to leave with an ankle injury after scoring 14.

Wade said he rolled the ankle he originally hurt in a loss at Boston last week. He was hoping James would pull it out without him.

"I wish the East would've won, then my teammate with the triple-double would've stole (the MVP)," Wade said. "But (Bryant) deserved it."

Plenty of Hollywood giants were sitting courtside, but Bryant's popularity here can rival most of them. This week, he became the first athlete to have his handprints and footprints put in concrete outside Hollywood's famed Grauman's Chinese Theater.

He told fans to "enjoy the show" before the tip, and as always he delivered a good one.

Always more about focus than fun, Bryant had 21 points by the time Rihanna came out for her halftime performance, putting him halfway to Wilt Chamberlain's record from 1962, the year of his 100-point game.

Bryant missed last year's game in Dallas with an ankle injury.

"You could tell he started out from the start, he wanted to get the MVP," Stoudemire said. "He was not passing the ball, at all. But that's Kobe."

And when the East made it close in the third quarter, Bryant dunked over a chasing James who was going for the block, then nailed a 3-pointer to make it 90-79.

"He was unbelievable tonight," James said. "You definitely saw his motor was going tonight."

Carmelo Anthony scored eight points in his possible goodbye to the West team. The weekend was dominated by talk of a potential trade to New York or New Jersey, and the Denver Nuggets forward appeared alternately entertained and annoyed by the constant questions.

"At times, it can be tough, but it's fun at the same time," he said while walking on the magenta carpet before the game. "During this weekend I'm still having fun."

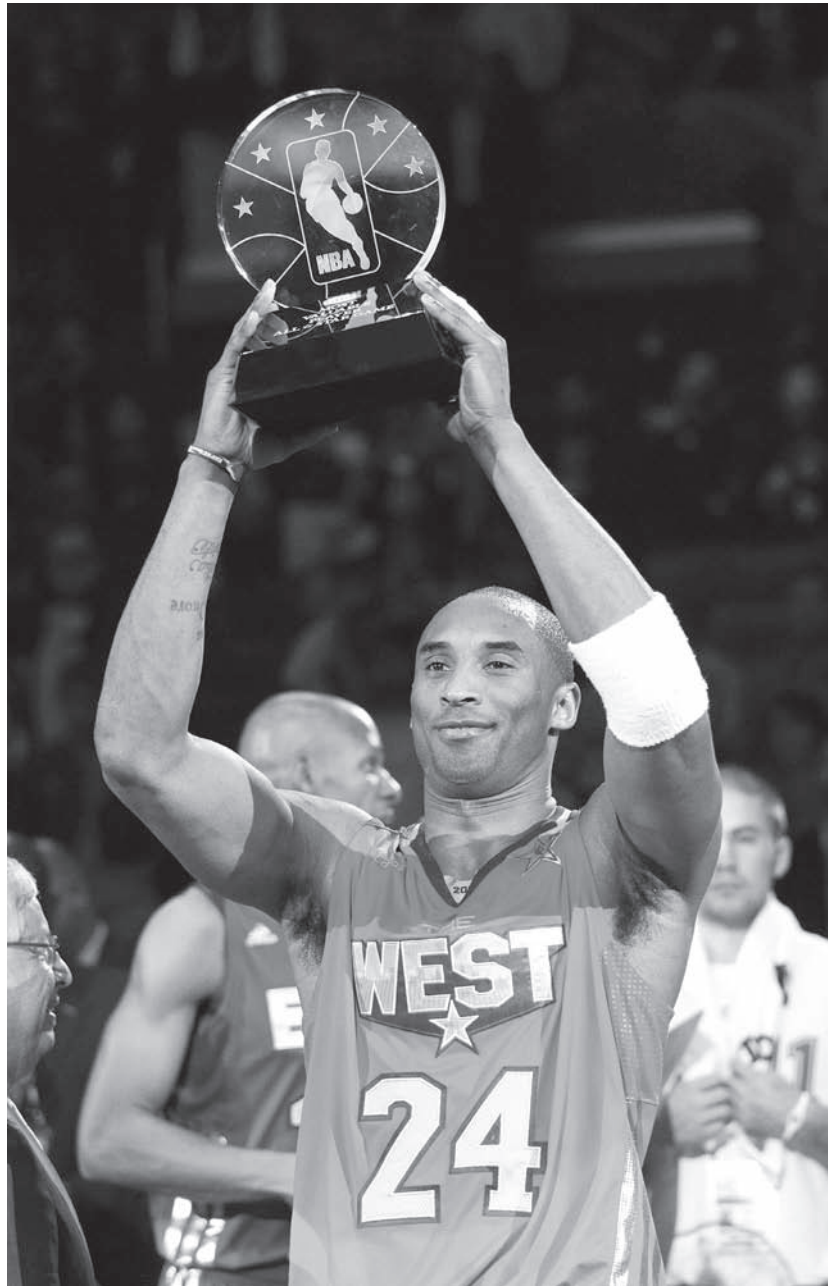
While hearing some of the usual "MVP! MVP!" chants he's usually serenaded with at Staples Center, Bryant tied Bob Pettit's record for All-Star game honors. He was scoreless for the final 6:48, but Lakers teammate Pau Gasol had a big basket to help the West hold on.

Gasol scored 17 points, helping the West hold on against an East team featuring a combined seven players from Boston and Miami, considered two of the biggest threats to end the Lakers' reign.

The exhibition game had a bit of a finals feel with the presence of a record-tying four players from the rival Celtics.

Paul Pierce—who grew up in nearby Inglewood—and Kevin Garnett received the heaviest boos during the starting lineups. Ray Allen and Rajon Rondo were also here from the group that lost Game 7 on this floor last June and would love another chance to come take the title back.

East coach Doc Rivers sent his four players out together midway through the first quarter to loud boos that usually provide the soundtrack of June in Los Angeles. They quickly turned to cheers when Allen threw up an airball on his first shot attempt.



West's Kobe Bryant holds up the MVP trophy after the NBA basketball All-Star Game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011. The West won, 148-143.

Bryant denied gaining extra motivation from seeing the two rivals, both of whom already won at Staples Center this season. But he was clearly into the game from the start, driving for a

couple of strong dunks or knocking down jumpers when defenders gave him room.

The crowd of entertainers included Beyonce and Jay-Z, Sean "Diddy"

Combs, Jack Nicholson, Stevie Wonder, John Legend and Justin Bieber—who was called Justin "Berber" by the public address announcer while mentioning the teen star's MVP performance in the celebrity game on Friday.

Perhaps trying too hard to impress the stars surrounding them, there were errant passes and shaky shooting in the early minutes. The West got it right in the final minute of the first quarter, with rookie star Blake Griffin of the Clippers catching an alley-oop pass from Deron Williams for one of his powerful dunks—though not quite the degree of difficulty as his slam while leaping over the hood of a car Saturday to win the dunk contest.

The game was a welcome diversion from the Anthony talk and the troubling labor situation that threatens the league. Next year's game is scheduled for Orlando, but nobody can be sure it will be played. The owners and players' association met Friday to discuss a new collective bargaining agreement to replace the one that expires June 30. Though it was described as a positive meeting, there was also no progress made, and the sides have a significant gap to close in order to prevent a work stoppage.

And it was a welcome break for Lakers fans, whose defending two-time champions stumbled into the weekend with three losses in a row.

They'll be all right if Bryant is as sharp in the spring as he was Sunday.

Chris Bosh scored 14 points, Allen had 12, and Derrick Rose and Joe Johnson finished with 11 apiece for the East.

Following a pregame performance by rocker Lenny Kravitz a tandem talc toss by James and the rest of the East starters, Bryant scored 11 points in the first quarter. The West led 76-64 at halftime.

Russell Westbrook, who played at UCLA, scored 12 points and Chris Paul added 10 for the West.

Knicks say they're on same page in 'Melo pursuit



LOS ANGELES (AP)—At least Carmelo Anthony didn't have to switch uniforms in the middle of the All-Star game.

Everything else about the Denver Nuggets forward's future was still profoundly unsettled Sunday night, with the New Jersey Nets and New York Knicks still vying to land him ahead of Thursday's trade deadline.

After starting the day with another round of meetings on his future, Anthony contributed eight points and seven rebounds to the West's 148-143 victory over the East in the 60th All-Star game.

Anthony had said he hoped to resolve his future this weekend while the entire basketball world gathered in Los Angeles, but 'Melo seemed mellow about missing that soft deadline.

"It didn't overshadow anything for me," said Anthony, a West starter. "I had a great time. I had fun. I still enjoyed this weekend, regardless of what was going on and what has been said. Me and my family and my friends had a blast this weekend. ... I said I hoped to have a word by

today, one way or another. I've been up early dealing with this and all the festivities, but the night is still young on this side (of the country)."

In the latest episode of the NBA's biggest soap opera, Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov said he still believes they're in the race for Anthony—and if not, Prokhorov thinks at least they made it harder for the Knicks.

Meanwhile, the Knicks insisted they're on the same page in their pursuit—and that Isiah Thomas isn't involved in it.

Prokhorov told CNBC on Sunday he had a "fantastic" meeting with Anthony on Saturday night. The Russian billionaire had pulled the Nets out of talks last month, and even after they were recently renewed he said he originally had no plans to meet with Anthony during the All-Star weekend.

"As you know, my instinct was to stay away and I still think that is (the) right decision," Prokhorov said. "But when the meeting was fixed, (Nets general manager) Billy King called me and said, 'We need you.' I was convinced and I still think I'm right to stay away, but we have teamwork so some-

times we need to be all together."

Asked at Staples Center before the All-Star game if he had any news on a deal, Prokhorov said: "I don't care."

The Nets still believe Anthony would agree to sign a contract extension with them that would be a prerequisite to making the deal, despite previous reports that he would only do so if traded to the Knicks.

"I was just listening," Anthony said of his meeting with the Nets. "I didn't give anybody a definitive answer. It was a good meeting to have. I'm not going to talk about the selling points and all that stuff. It was interesting. It's hard for me to sit here and talk about what the Nets can do, because I'm not in a Nets uniform."

Even if they can't get an agreement from Anthony, Prokhorov sees value in the Nets' return to the trade talks.

"I think we made a very good tactical decision to force (the) Knicks to pay as much as they can," Prokhorov said. "So it's very good, it's very interesting, it's very competitive."

And it created reports that the Knicks' negotiations had been taken out of the hands of team president

Donnie Walsh by Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan—with Thomas advising him. The team attempted to shoot them down with a statement Sunday.

"We want to make it abundantly clear that we have been in constant communication throughout this process and the three of us are in complete agreement with everything that we are currently working on. Together, we will do what is best for the long-term success of the franchise," said the statement, which was attributed to Dolan, Walsh and coach Mike D'Antoni.

Walsh has been patient in his approach with Anthony, who can become a free agent after the season. The Knicks could just sign him then without having to give up any of their young core in a trade with the Nuggets, but Anthony would prefer a deal during the season so he'd be eligible for the three-year, \$65 million extension he's refused to sign with Denver.

"An extension will come into play, regardless of the situation," Anthony said. "I haven't talked to anybody today from the Denver Nuggets organization, so as of right now, I'm still a Nugget."

Baddeley wins at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Finally a winner again, Aaron Baddeley raised his arms when his last putt dropped into the cup Sunday in the Northern Trust Open as his wife and two young daughters came over to share the moment.

They might have been among the few cheering him on at Riviera.

Baddeley could hear chants of "Freddie!" at every turn, and it got even louder when Fred Couples birdied the opening three holes to take the lead. Unfazed, Baddeley cared only about a victory that was just as meaningful to him.

"I thought Freddie was going to be tough today because winning is a skill, and Freddie has been winning quite often recently," Baddeley said. "When he got off to a good start, I was like, 'Freddie looks like he's going to have one of those days where he's going to play great.' I was still just trying to focus on my game, and try to do what I needed to do."

He did just enough.

In a battle of generations, the 29-year-old Australian made his best putt after his only big mistake and closed with a 2-under 69 to hold off Vijay Singh and Couples, and win for the first time in four years.

Baddeley wound up with a two-shot win over Singh, who turns 48 on Tuesday. The big Fijian closed with a 69 for his best finish in more than two years. Couples, who still had hope on the 16th, bogeyed two of the last three holes and shot 73 to tie for seventh in his bid to become the PGA Tour's oldest winner in more than 35 years.

"I'm a golfer, so I'm disappointed," Couples said.

With his tender back, it only took one hole for the 51-year-old Couples to fall apart. Tied for the lead, he pushed his

tee shot into the barranca to the right of the seventh fairway in grass so thick he had trouble finding his ball. Couples gave it a ferocious whack, and the ball came out to the left and into a bunker. He wound up making double bogey, a three-shot swing when Baddeley holed a 20-footer for birdie from the fringe.

"I just didn't feel the same after that," Couples said. "I didn't really hurt myself, but I never hit a shot, and I just got it around. I mean, I couldn't hit an iron. I hit a few good drives, but I was afraid to hit the ground, hitting it that hard out of that stuff. I did get off to a good start, and that was where it ended."

"It's nothing bad," he said. "I'm not



having any excuse. It's just after that point, I never hit a shot."

It was the third career PGA Tour win for Baddeley, whose game had slipped so much that he had plunged to No. 224 in the world. This isn't enough to get back into the top 50, but at least he can book a trip to Augusta National in April for the Masters.

Singh, who only three weeks ago had fallen out of the top 100 in the world for the first time in more than 21 years, had his highest finish since he won the Deutsche Bank Championship in 2008 on his way to the FedEx Cup. Despite back-to-back bogeys on the back nine, he gave himself a chance to the very end.

Singh said it was the best week with the putter in his career, which would include his 2000 Masters victory. He took only 105 putts for the week, including just one three-putt in the second round.

"That's a great, great thing to have

when you're putting well," Singh said. "I haven't done that for a long, long time. This is going to get me some places."

Baddeley, who finished at 12-under 272, won for the first time since the 2007 Phoenix Open. He had been one of the early proponents of the "Stack & Tilt" swing method until deciding to go back to his old teacher, Dale Lynch, two years ago. His goal was to be able to move the ball both ways without having to think about it, and the swing held up just fine on a sunny afternoon along Sunset Boulevard.

"To be honest, it felt like coming home," Baddeley said of his return to Lynch, his first coach as a teenager in Australia. "Dale and I have spent a lot of hours together, and at times it's been frustrating, but like I said, that end product ... we knew what we were working toward, and that was the key."

Kevin Na made good putts on the last two holes for a 71 that put him alone in third place.

Couples was showing his age on the practice range, where his back is so tender that he only warms up with a driver and fairway metals to stay more upright. With a driver in hand, he teed up two balls at a time to keep from stooping over.

On the course, he looked like the Couples of old.

Couples opened with three straight birdies to bring Riviera to life, just like the old days. He chipped in for birdie from just off the second green, pointing his club to the cup with his left hand in a pose that has become familiar over the years. Then came a 20-foot birdie on the third to give him the outright lead.

But it started to come undone on the par-3 sixth, where the tee was moved



Aaron Baddeley, of Australia, holds the trophy after winning the Northern Trust Open PGA golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011.

forward and the pin was front and right, away from the bunker in the middle of the green. He flared it to the right and missed a 4-foot par putt.

And then came what he called a "comedy of errors" on the seventh.

Equipped with the lead, Baddeley never let it go. His only mistake was hitting into the trees on consecutive shots and missing a 2 1/2-foot putt to take double bogey on the 12th. Bad-

deley responded swiftly, making a 20-foot birdie putt from the fringe with 8 feet of break.

He made pars the rest of the way, and no one could catch him.

"It's definitely been a couple of long years, but it was worth every bit," Baddeley said. "I really feel that the last couple years is actually what made it easier today ... the character that was just built in me."

Young won't be distraction; Mattingly nervous

Michael Young asked for a change of scenery a month ago after another role change with the Texas Rangers.

Now, he's fine where he's at—wherever that may be on the field.

"He said he wasn't going to be a distraction. That was it," manager Ron Washington said Sunday, relaying what Young said during a scheduled team meeting before the workout.

The longest-tenured Rangers player going into his 11th season, Young has a different role for the third time in eight springs. He's expected to be the team's primary designated hitter and utility infielder after the offseason acquisition of Adrian Beltre supplanted Young at third base, the position he played the last two seasons.

Young had requested a trade last month, but with no deal done, he reported to camp on time Saturday and said he was focused on getting ready for the season.

"First and foremost I'm a baseball player. There's nothing to block out," said Young, who took grounders at second base for the first time in several years. "For it to become public is regretful but I've got no regrets. Baseball is my life

sport. It's my entire life."

Elsewhere in spring training, new Dodgers manager Don Mattingly conceded he had some jitters about standing up to give the first speech to the entire team when the position players arrive in camp Monday.

Also, Yankees captain Derek Jeter said he plans to enjoy his upcoming trip to 3,000 career hits, and Indians center fielder Grady Sizemore hopes to be ready for opening day after knee surgery.

At Surprise, Ariz., Washington said he plans for Young, the team's career hits leader and a six-time All-Star, to get some work at first base this spring even though most of his at-bats will come as the DH.

Young became a starter for the Rangers in 2001 at second base, moved to shortstop before the 2004 season after Alex Rodriguez was traded, then was switched to third base two years ago when the Rangers decided to promote Elvis Andrus from the minors.

"It feels like home for me on defense," Young said. "I hadn't played there in years, played there in the World Baseball Classic and it was like I never left." (AP)



3rd day of mediated NFL labor talks done

WASHINGTON (AP)— Federally mediated negotiations toward a new NFL labor deal lasted about eight hours Sunday,

the third consecutive day the league and its players' union met to try to find common ground before the current contract expires.

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith didn't stop for questions as he left the Washington office of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a U.S. government agency, shortly after 6 p.m. He and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell arrived within minutes of each other, shortly before 10 a.m.

After months of slow and sometimes contentious bargaining, the sides have met for a total of more than 20 hours since Friday in front of George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Because both sides agreed to Cohen's request that they not comment publicly on these negotiations, it's not clear what, if any, progress is being made.

"You know we're not going to give you any information," NFL outside lawyer Bob Batterman said as he left with three league executives. "I can't say anything, other than the fact that

we are meeting."

Batterman, who represented the NHL when it lost its entire 2004-05 season to a lockout, then referred to Cohen as a "first-class mediator."

The NFL's labor deal expires at the end of the day March 3. The union has said it believes team owners want to lock out the players as soon as the next day, which could threaten the 2011 season.

On his way into the talks Sunday morning, Jeff Pash, the NFL's general counsel and lead labor negotiator said: "We are working hard, and we're following the director's playbook, and we'll see what we come up with."

Lawyers Jeffrey Kessler and Richard Berthelsen, current players Tony Richardson of the New York Jets and Charlie Batch of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and former players Pete Kendall and Sean Morey were among those representing the union Sunday. They began arriving before 9 a.m.

"Conversation is good," Richardson said when he left.

The sides met for about six hours on both Friday and Saturday. Cohen announced Thursday the groups agreed to the mediation, which is not binding but is meant as a way to spur progress.

The plan calls for several days of negotiations with Cohen present. The

mediation could be seen as a positive sign after several months of infrequent negotiations—and frequent rhetoric, including charges from each side that the other was hoping for a work stoppage.

The league and union went more than two months without any formal bargaining until Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again the next week but called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the pre-season by two games; a rookie wage scale; and benefits for retired players.

No team owners have been seen at the mediated sessions, but they're surely keeping up with what's happening—and at least one indicated optimism about the 2011 season in a roundabout way.

Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay tweeted Sunday: "T Minus 351 days 2 Sup Bowl kickoff in Indy...early predictions 4 participating teams???"

RBC 5K Cupid Fun Run/Walk Saturday

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Over 80 youths have already signed up for the Rollers Basketball Club's First Annual 5K Cupid Fun/Walk fundraiser that kicks off this Saturday.

"We're looking forward to our first-ever Cupid Fun Run/Walk event. This is a great fundraiser idea that promotes a healthy lifestyle in addition to encouraging families to come together and spend some quality time with each another," RBC head coach Joe Diaz said.

"The RBC would like to thank the Division of Youth Services, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Grand Hotel, Hollywood Theaters, Fotten Gaga, Magas, and Martha's Store for their continued support in our events," Diaz added.

Donaire stops foe in 2nd round, takes bantamweight titles



LAS VEGAS—Nonito Donaire won the WBO and WBC bantamweight championships Saturday night (Sunday morning in the Philippines), stopping Fernando Montiel with a left hook at 2:25 in the second round.

Donaire, a Filipino-American who made his bantamweight debut in December, controlled most of the fight against the Mexican champion. He landed a left hook that briefly stunned Montiel in the first round and came out swinging in the second round, landing a few combinations before knocking Montiel to the

The race will start at the Susupe Civic Center and continue north along the Beach Road pathway ending at the Garapan Basketball Court. Once at the finish line, participants will get a chance to compete in a variety of side games for prizes such as phones, gift certificates and more. Then at 5pm the RBC Cupid Basketball Tournament continues at the Garapan court with its second round of games scheduled until 8pm.

Pre-registration fee for the Cupid Fun Run is only \$7. Interested participants can obtain tickets in advance by visiting the RBC players during their Tuesday and Thursday evening practice sessions at the Garapan court from 5pm to 8pm or by contacting Diaz at 283-1791.

Registration on the day of the event will start at 6am at the Civic Center. Tickets will cost \$10 each. The race starts at 7am and the first 150 participants will

receive a free Rocksteady t-shirt.

There are four age divisions in the Cupid Fun Run: U13, 14 to 19, 20 to 29 and 30-and- above. Awards and prizes will be given to the Top 3 finishers of each division.

Half of the proceeds of both events are going to help send the RBC 18A men's team to Guam's March Madness Tournament. The other half will be set aside to help send the RBC U16 boys team to the 2012 Coca-Cola National Invitational Youth Basketball Tournament in Anaheim, California. RBC was invited to participate in the state-side event by the Southern California A.C.E.S. Basketball Academy.

Registration on the day of the event will start at 6am at the Civic Center. Tickets will cost \$10 each. The race starts at 7am and the first 150 participants will

Cupid basketball tourney

The Cupid Basketball Tournament tips off at the Garapan court this Friday from 5pm to 9pm, weather permitting.

disputed in this weight class, if not I want to go up in weight."

Montiel dropped to 44-3-2 (34 KOs). "I knew we both had the punching power to knock each other out," he said. "I made the first mistake and I paid for it."

When asked if he planned to fight Pound for pound Boxing King Manny Pacquiao to be the number one boxer, Donaire said no, he would never fight Pacquiao.

"I have so much respect for him and I'm happy just to be Number 2," said Donaire.

Malacanang on Sunday congratulated Filipino boxer Nonito Donaire Jr. for wresting the WBC-WBO bantamweight belt from defending champion Montiel.

The boys U15 title game was a nip-and-tuck duel with Jake Lee surviving Angelo Jones, 8-6. In the girls U15 finals, Lopez reasserted her mastery over Melody Johnson after nailing an 8-3 victory.

In the girls and boys U18 singles, which both had a round-robin format, Rafael Jones and Theecel Minor went unbeaten to rule their respective divisions. Theecel Minor topped Amy Arenovski, 8-3, and Ilia Corella, 8-0,

while Eli Aughenbaugh tallied only two markers.

NMC Proa 65 – Lizama 19, Iguel 12, Libuw 10, D. Barcinas 6, Valdez 6, A. Barcinas 5, Mendiola 2, Palacios 2, Babauta 1.

Prospects 57 – Moises 18, Lauron 14, E. Aughenbaugh 12, Chariton 9, Inos 4, Apelo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 31-28, 42-43, 65-57.

that was what NMC needed to finally thwart Prospects. Lizama added nine more points in the payoff period, while Iguel chipped in six.

Keoni Chariton had two triples and seven points in the fourth quarter, but he was the only Prospects player to score more than one field goal for Prospects. Ernie Moises, who finished with 16 after three quarters, was held to two points. Alex Lauron was also held to a field goal and a free throw, bases loaded.

The Fielders sense of urgency was more and more visible, as the final stand approached. They rallied together three runs in the top of the eighth to make it a one-run game again, 7-8. Four of their first five batters reached off three walks and an error. Mendiola scored Ionis Rasa off a sacrifice fly and the other two runs came in off errors.

D-9ers came up empty in the bottom frame and the Fielders managed to tie

Berger tallying 1:58:25. Lowe finished eighth overall with a time of 47:48, while Chang, who raced barefoot, came it almost two minutes later at 49:38. Tudela finished the race under the one-hour mark at 50:30, while Babauta recorded 1:02:04. Bai finished in the Top 10 with his 49:00, but teammate Ruszala came in last at 1:07:00 and the team dropped to seventh place. Halaby and Joshua Berger crossed the finish

RACE

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Tan had an easier finals win against Kinumi Taniguchi, 8-2. Also cruising to a comfortable victory was Dong Min Lee, who defeated Fernando Cajigan in the men's 40-and-up singles finals, 8-4.

Joining Race, Tan, and Lee in the singles champions circle were junior players Mikayla Lopez, Jake Lee, Ra-

fael Jones, Theecel Minor, Julia Ishikawa, Luther Lizama, Tammy Ackerman, and Moris Villanueva.

Lizama clinched the boys U10 singles crown after shutting out Clayton Izuka in the finals, 6-0, while Ishikawa prevailed in the girls championship game against Tania Tan, 6-3.

In the boys U12 finals, Villanueva cruised past Colin Ramsey, 8-2, while in the girls title match, Ackerman edged Emily Jones, 8-6.

Pete Iguel and Jack Lizama played in the second canto and scored six points apiece to keep NMC in front at the break, 31-28.

In the third quarter, Aguon shuffled his players anew, while Prospects sixth man Leo Apelo came off the bench and scored four points with his last two markers giving his team a 43-42 lead, entering the fourth period.

Lizama and Iguel returned to the game at the start of the final canto and

After going scoreless in the first six innings, the Fielders finally hit the board and made it a one run game, 4-5, at the top of the seventh. Ryan Ada, Shane Mediola, and Caduz Tenorio each poked RBI singles and Ryan Lisua scored off a passed ball.

D-9ers answered with three runs in the bottom seventh for a breather, 8-4. The first five batters all reached off a hit, three walks, and a bean ball. Both runs came in off walks with the

combined time of 1:34:03.

Team Suko Na Ko's Gary Bandoja and Nap Dizon placed fourth with a total time of 1:36:10. Bandoja completed the race in 45:44 for the fifth best time overall, while Dizon submitted the 11th best time at 50:26.

Rounding out the Top 5 was the pair of Fred Camacho and Tamio Nishikido. The Banzai Runners compiled a combined time of 1:36:48. Nishikido

MAMIKO

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the finished line at the 46:47 mark for Team Marpi's total time of 1:32:56.

Tom Linden finished second overall, clocking in at 42:56, but his 2 Old Men teammate Paul Viator came in at the 51:47 mark, dropping the team to third place with a



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scores Sunday from the \$6.5-million Northern Trust Open at the par-71 (35-36), 7,325-yard Riviera Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

Aaron Baddeley (500), \$1,170,000	67-69-67-69-272
Vijay Singh (300), \$702,000	68-70-67-69-274
Kevin Na (190), \$442,000	71-66-67-71-275
Jimmy Walker (115), \$268,667	68-71-69-68-276
Robert Allenby (115), \$268,667	67-70-71-68-276
Ryan Moore (115), \$268,667	69-68-70-69-276
K.J. Choi (88), \$209,625	70-69-70-68-277
Fred Couples (88), \$209,625	68-66-70-73-277
J.J. Henry (75), \$175,500	69-74-69-66-278
David Duval (75), \$175,500	71-71-69-67-278
Justin Rose (75), \$175,500	69-69-70-70-278
Bill Haas (56), \$112,667	67-74-71-67-279
Jhonattan Vegas (56), \$112,667	71-70-72-66-279
Ben Curtis (56), \$112,667	71-70-71-67-279
Paul Casey (56), \$112,667	71-67-73-68-279
Kevin Stadler (56), \$112,667	70-71-69-69-279
Retief Goosen (56), \$112,667	69-71-70-69-279
J.B. Holmes (56), \$112,667	67-69-72-71-279
Stuart Appleby (56), \$112,667	69-72-68-70-279
Spencer Levin (56), \$112,667	67-69-72-71-279
Paul Goydos (49), \$70,200	72-73-68-67-280
Geoff Ogilvy (49), \$70,200	69-71-71-69-280
Cameron Tringale (49), \$70,200	71-68-71-70-280
John Senden (49), \$70,200	67-69-71-73-280
Zack Miller (45), \$51,838	76-66-71-68-281
Vaughn Taylor (45), \$51,838	71-71-68-71-281
Martin Laird (45), \$51,838	67-73-69-72-281
Erik Compton (0), \$51,838	72-70-75-64-281
Brendon de Jonge (40), \$41,329	72-72-69-69-282
Jason Dufner (40), \$41,329	70-75-68-69-282
Zach Johnson (40), \$41,329	73-70-68-71-282
Steve Stricker (40), \$41,329	73-72-65-72-282
Trevor Immelman (40), \$41,329	70-67-72-73-282
Stewart Cink (40), \$41,329	70-67-71-74-282
Jarrod Lyle (32), \$28,698	70-72-71-70-283
Steve Marino (32), \$28,698	71-71-70-71-283
Brandt Jobe (32), \$28,698	71-73-69-70-283
Ryan Palmer (32), \$28,698	70-71-70-72-283
Rickie Fowler (32), \$28,698	74-71-68-70-283
Tommy Gainey (32), \$28,698	71-71-69-72-283
Matt Kuchar (32), \$28,698	69-73-69-72-283
Phil Mickelson (32), \$28,698	71-70-74-68-283
Hunter Haas (32), \$28,698	71-69-70-73-283
Jim Furyk (32), \$28,698	75-70-71-67-283
Peter Tomasulo (24), \$18,590	68-74-71-71-284
Michael Putnam (24), \$18,590	72-69-72-71-284
Scott Piercy (24), \$18,590	73-66-73-72-284
Scott McCarron (24), \$18,590	72-72-70-70-284
Jeff Overton (24), \$18,590	73-71-72-68-284
Steve Flesch (24), \$18,590	73-71-72-68-284
Chad Collins (19), \$15,503	70-73-69-73-285
Robert Garrigus (19), \$15,503	73-69-72-71-285
Lucas Glover (19), \$15,503	73-72-70-70-285
Harrison Frazer (19), \$15,503	69-74-65-77-285
Charley Hoffman (13), \$14,560	71-74-68-73-286
Padraig Harrington (13), \$14,560	68-71-75-72-286
Hunter Mahan (13), \$14,560	72-71-72-71-286
D.J. Trahan (13), \$14,560	71-73-71-71-286
Carl Pettersson (13), \$14,560	67-78-70-71-286
Corey Pavin (13), \$14,560	69-71-76-70-286
Andres Romero (13), \$14,560	72-73-72-69-286
Louis Oosthuizen (8), \$13,845	71-70-72-74-287
Robert Karlsson (8), \$13,845	71-70-72-74-287
Yuta Ikeda (0), \$13,845	71-73-74-69-287
Tim Petrovic (8), \$13,845	74-70-75-68-287
Shaun Micheel (5), \$13,455	72-69-72-75-288
Charles Howell III (5), \$13,455	72-72-73-71-288
Arjun Atwal (3), \$13,195	71-74-72-72-289
Justin Leonard (3), \$13,195	73-72-72-72-289
Jason Bohn (1), \$12,935	72-73-72-73-290
Matt Jones (1), \$12,935	71-74-72-73-290
Ricky Barnes (1), \$12,675	72-73-71-75-291
Sean O'Hair (1), \$12,675	72-71-75-73-291
Michael Sim (1), \$12,415	70-71-77-74-292
Mark Wilson (1), \$12,415	71-73-76-72-292
Troy Merritt (1), \$12,220	71-74-75-73-293
Brian Davis (1), \$12,090	68-76-78-72-294

By The Associated Press

Winning pitcher Mel Sakisat had a two-hitter shutout going until the start of the seventh frame. In the end, Sakisat allowed four runs, three earned, in seven innings and gave up seven hits with three strikeouts and two walks. D-9ers' Bansil batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs, three runs, and two base on balls.

SML action continues tonight with the Fielders hoping to bounce back when they face the St. Michael Angels at 6pm.

line together with the former clocking in at 59:12 and the latter at 59:13.

Team 670 Hoopaholics organized the event with its proceeds helping the team's campaign in an off-island tournament. Organizers would like to thank NTT Docomo Pacific, Gold's Gym, Trench Tech Inc., Tan Holdings, D&Q, Saipan Grand Hotel, PIC, McDonald's, Hollywood Theaters, and Hyatt Regency Saipan for supporting the race.

2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet

Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, Mikayla Lopez, Angel Marie Tan, Lia Rangamar, Reylynn Sapong, and Negahr Rastguiy show their female student athletes of the month certificates during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last week at the Saipan Grand Hotel.



From left, Raphael Zapanta, Christian Miller, Juan Maratita, M.J. Aldan, and Michael Ren show their male student athletes of the month certificates during the 2010 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last week at the Saipan Grand Hotel.



2010 Coach of the Year Tony Rogolifo, center, poses with his family members.



Recipients of NMASA female athletes of the month awards pose for a group photo. Ambrose Bennett, fifth from left, represented daughter Yvonne.



CNMI Hall of Fame inductee Tino Olopai, fourth from left, is joined on the stage by his family and friends during the trophy presentation.



Winners of the NMASA athletes of the month awards pose for with their certificates.



Tsunami Saipan swimmer Angel Marie Tan is flanked by parents Samson and Glorybel.



NMASA president Michael White delivers the opening remarks.



Tony Rogolifo poses with his Coach of the Year trophy.



**Kobe claims
4th MVP in
West's win**

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**Baddeley
wins at
Riviera**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

Race wins battle of coaches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI coach Jeff Race pulled off a come-from-behind 8-6 win over Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan instructor Peter Loyola to claim the men's singles crown in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Down at 0-3, Race worked his way back into the game with his consistent forehand returns and serves. He went on to take the next four games and then survived Loyola in a neck-and-neck battle in the closing stages of the match to eke out a close victory.

"When I fell behind at 3-0, all I was thinking was to avoid a 0-8 shutout. I took it one game at a time and tried hard to keep my patience. Peter made those good lobs a lot in the first three games, while I missed a couple of smashes," Race said.

Race grabbed the lead at 4-3, but Loyola, who earlier played in a doubles match, recovered and tied it at 6-all. Then Race served and scored an ace for a 7-6 advantage and then broke Loyola's service for the win.

In the women's singles, Lydia

See RACE on Page 26

Jeff Race, seen here waiting near the net while teammate Primo Po serves during a mixed up doubles match on Sunday, defeated Peter Loyola in the men's singles finals in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



NMC Proa stays undefeated

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Six and counting.

NMC Proa notched its sixth win in as many games, following a 65-57 victory over the struggling Prospects in the second match in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

While NMC Proa kept its winning streak, Prospects continued its slide, absorbing its seventh loss in as many games. Jack Lizama paced NMC



Proa with his 19 points, making nine of them in the fourth quarter where his team went back to business and finished off Prospects.

NMC Proa played complacent in the first three quarters before pushing the ball harder in the fourth canto. Coach Rufino Aguon used a lot of his bench players in the first three periods against Prospects, which reported for the game with only six players.

Aguon started with Joe Villacrusis, Jesus Valdez, Aitao Barcinas, Gino Libuw, and Dan Barcinas, who was the only original member of NMC

See NMC on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMC Proa's Jack Lizama goes up for a layup against Prospects' Eli Aughenbaugh, right, and Ernie Moises, during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

D-9ers stun Fielders in extra inning



By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The home team D-9ers pulled off an upset over defending champion Fielders, escaping with a 9-8 victory in extra inning during their debut game in the Saipan Major League on Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

With the game tied at 8-all after nine and a half innings, Jonathan Tenorio belted the game-winning line drive through the left alley at the bottom of the 10th. The loss was the Fielders' first after downing the Brewers in the league's opening on Feb. 2.

See D-9ERS on Page 26

D-9ers' Jonathan Tenorio, seen here waiting for the pitch, smashed the game winning single that lifted his team to a 9-8 win over the Fielders during Friday's Saipan Major League game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Mamiko, Jack pass Test Your 10K Fun Run



Oshima-Berger



Kabiriel

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REPORTER



Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger finished in the Top 3 of the Test Your 10K Fun Run to rule Saturday's fundraiser.

Kabiriel completed the race from Micro Beach to Hakubotan via Beach Road and back in 42 minutes and 21 seconds to top the 18-runner field, while Oshima-Berger finished third overall with her time of 44:12.

The Kabiriel-Berger tandem had a combined time of 1:26:33, about six minutes ahead of runners-up Steve Pixley and Ronald Villafria. Villafria placed sixth overall at 46:09 and less than a minute later Pixley crossed

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